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INSIDE

LOCAL



Marines participating in Exercise Forager Fury II enjoy a Thanksgiving meal. **➤ PAGE 13**

NATION



Investigators check the wreckage of a plane crash in Alaska that killed four. **➤ PAGE 15**

LIFE & STYLE



Investigators say speed was a factor in the crash that killed actor Paul Walker. **➤ PAGE 19**

Micronesian presidents, governors begin arriving today. **PAGE 2**
'\$2M savings may only go to power hike, liabilities' **PAGE 3**

GDP report: NMI economy grew 5.2 percent in 2012

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Tourism spending, as anticipated, was a "key" driver of a 5.2-percent growth in the CNMI economy in 2012 after posting a 6.8-percent decline in 2011, based on a new gross domestic product report that the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis released yesterday.

Gross domestic product or GDP is the sum of spending by consumers, the government, and businesses.

The CNMI's real GDP—GDP adjusted to remove price changes—climbed to \$593 million in 2012 compared to \$563 million in 2011.

But this is still lower than 2010's \$604 million, an increase of 1.1 percent fol-

See GDP on Page 4

Orphans speak of Haiyan's horrors

An unknown number of children in the eastern Philippines have lost their parents to Typhoon Haiyan's tsunami-like storm surge. Now the UNICEF is helping to rapidly trace the families of affected children and to connect them with relatives.

The death toll from Haiyan has risen to 5,560 with 1,757 others missing. The United Nations said at least 14 million people have been affected, including 1.8 million displaced children.

See story on Page 16

Bike registration law not enforced for 31 years

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

For some 31 years, the CNMI has not enforced its bicycle registration law nor collected any bicycle registration fee. That could soon change as Rep. Christopher Leon Guerrero (Cov-Saipan) proposes to increase by anywhere between 16.6 percent and 400 percent the registration fees for two-wheeled vehicles.

But because of another law, Pub-
See BIKE on Page 4

DEMOLITION EXERCISE

Marines assemble C4 and TNT charges to demolish trees on Nov. 29 at Charlie runway during a demolition range in exercise Forager Fury II. FF II is a joint exercise designed to employ and assess combat power generation in a deployed and austere environment. "The purpose of this demolition is to clear runway Charlie and get Marines involved," said Keithley. "This training prepares for real world operations in the event that we have to set up a landing field on an island and fight pretty much anywhere. Here we're prepared to clear a runway so MAG-12 can land F-18s." Keithley is a platoon commander with Marine Wing Support Squadron 171, Marine Aircraft Group 12, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

U.S. MARINE CORPS/
LANCE CPL. ANTONIO RUBIO

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Local

Micronesian presidents, governors begin arriving today

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Presidents and governors will start arriving today on Saipan for tomorrow's opening of the three-day 19th Micronesian Chief Executives Summit that will take on issues of common

concerns and solutions, including climate change, tourism, healthcare, shark conservation, and human trafficking. Others will arrive hours before the summit starts Wednesday.

During the weekend, these chief executives' staffers started arriving in preparation for the

summit, to be held at Fiesta Resort & Spa in Garapan.

In all, there will be three presidents and six governors on Saipan for the summit, where at least 15 presentations will be held by different committees.

This will be Gov. Eloy S. Inos' first time to host the

MCES summit as a governor.

He said besides the presentations, leaders will also follow up on previous resolutions, but he is also particularly keen on discussing the Affordable Care Act or Obamacare and issues related to Compact Impact or the impact of migration from is-

lands with agreements with the United States, at the summit.

The summit will bring together Marshall Islands President Christopher J. Loeak, Federated States of Micronesia President Emanuel Mori, and Palau President Tommy Remengesau Jr.

They will be joined by CNMI Gov. Eloy S. Inos, Guam Gov. Eddie B. Calvo, Yap Gov. Se-

bastian L. Anefal, Pohnpei Gov. John Ehsa, Chuuk Gov. Johnson S. Elimo, and Kosrae Gov. Carson Sigrah.

Federal officials and other delegates from the region and the United States will also be at the summit, which has served as a venue for Micronesian island leaders to discuss common concerns and solutions.

Article 11 initiative seeks to give NMDs a cut in public land income

Another proposed change to Article 11 of the CNMI Constitution seeks to put up a royalty account so that persons of Northern Marianas descent may receive payments from public land leases.

Revenues from public land leases are invested by the Marianas Public Land Trust.

Right now, the method of transferring earnings from MPLT investments is to transfer the earnings to the general fund.

House Legislative Initiative 18-13 is sponsored by Rep. Antonio Agulto (Ind-Saipan), along with five others.

It seeks to amend Section 6(d) of the CNMI Constitution's Article XI to require MPLT to

"distribute earnings from its investments to persons of Northern Marianas descent.

The initiative says public lands belong collectively to people in the CNMI who are NMDs, and income from these

public lands is intended to directly benefit NMDs.

Under the initiative, MPLT trustees—after retaining a balance necessary to meet reasonable expenses of administration—shall transfer 75 percent of the remaining annual interest accrued into a dividend account.

"Each year, the trustees shall establish a record date to determine those persons of Northern Marianas Descent eligible to receive a dividend. The amount in the dividend account on the record date shall be distributed equally among those persons of Northern Marianas Descent 18 years or older who were residing in the Commonwealth on the record date," the initiative says.

HLI 18-13 needs to get a "yes" vote of three-fourths of the members of each house

present and voting.

Once the initiative passes the House and the Senate, the question will then be placed on the ballot for voters' ratification.

Two weeks ago, the House an Article 11 initiative seeking to allow both the use of public land lease revenues for land acquisition or compensation, as well as subjecting the Department of Public Lands' annual proposed budget to legislative "approval."

HLI 18-6, authored by Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), now heads to the Senate for action.

Another of the speaker's Article 11 initiative, HLI 18-5, has yet to be acted on by the House. HLI 18-5 increases to 99 years the maximum public land lease currently at only 55 years. (Haidee V. Eugenio)

Wiseman denies lawyer's request to suspend five-day jail sentence

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman has denied disbarred lawyer Stephen C. Woodruff's request to suspend the execution of his five-day jail sentence pending his appeal.

In his order Friday denying Woodruff's ex parte motion for a stay of execution of sentence, Wiseman said he gave Woodruff another opportunity to comply with the court's order and purge his contempt and gave him until Nov. 26, 2013, to do so.

Wiseman said that Woodruff submitted a supplemental Rule 15 of the Commonwealth Disciplinary Rules and Procedure affidavit, upon which the court will issue an order.

The judge said Woodruff's reference to Rule 62(d) of the Commonwealth Rules of Civil Procedure and Rule 38(a)(2) of the Commonwealth Rules of Criminal Procedure as authority for his motion are misplaced and erroneous, as are his other arguments in his two-page motion.

With that order, Wiseman is expected to issue another order today, Tuesday, whether the court may or not proceed with the imposition of the five-day jail sentence.

Last Nov. 22, Wiseman issued an order, stating that the court will issue an arrest warrant on Nov. 26 at 9am for Woodruff to serve five days in prison. On Nov. 26, Wiseman did not issue an arrest warrant because Woodruff submitted a document that the judge has been asking him to comply with the disbarment order.

Woodruff submitted, without filing or service on the other

party in the disciplinary case, a document entitled, "In Camera Submission of Current and Pending Clients."

On Nov. 26, Woodruff filed the motion to stay the execution of his sentence pending appeal.

Disciplinary counsel Thomas E. Clifford Woodruff's motion for a stay.

At the parties' request, Wiseman decided the motion quickly and without a hearing.

In his order on Friday, Wiseman said that Woodruff's motion is based on a rejected-as-defective notice of amended appeal of the court's order dated Oct. 2, 2013.

In that Oct. 2 order, Wiseman found Woodruff in contempt of court for not complying with the mandate of Rule 15 of the Commonwealth Disciplinary Rules and Procedures and of the disbarment order.

Woodruff was sentenced to five days in prison and suspended the sentence on the condition that he comply with the mandates.

Woodruff then submitted an affidavit pursuant to Rule 15, which the court did not find satisfactory, so the judge set a hearing for him to explain how he believes that submission was in compliance.

Wiseman heard from Woodruff and from disciplinary counsel Clifford, as well as from several witnesses who were clients severely affected by the lawyer's actions as their attorney.

Based on these, Wiseman found that Woodruff has still not complied with the mandates set forth by Rule 15 and its disbarment order. (Ferdie de la Torre)

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'\$2M savings may only go to power hike, liabilities'

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The Public School System expects to save over \$2 million every year from the lower rates

it now pays for water and wastewater charges but that savings will likely go to increased operational expenses due to a potential increase in power charges.

According to PSS finance

director Derek Sasamoto, PSS is expected to incur only about \$2.3 million in utility expenses this fiscal year 2014. This is a decline from previous fiscal years when PSS averaged more than \$4 million a year in CUC expenses—power, water, and wastewater.

CUC, however, has a pending petition with the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission to increase its power charges. The rate hearing is slated next week.

"We're projecting \$2.3 million CUC expenses [this fiscal year]; however, we did not anticipate the current proposed rate increase. If that happens, the only way we can [meet this new obligation] is to control and be mindful of our fund-

ing," Sasamoto said.

"Whatever savings we get [from the rate relief law] will pretty much go to current operation. PSS will make sure that it will stay current on bills like CUC," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

He pointed out that the anticipated increase in power charges was not factored in the new budget formulated by the system for the next 12-month period.

The rate relief bill was enacted into law (Public Law 18-19) in September, reducing the water and wastewater charges of public schools by reclassifying PSS from government to commercial. Because of this, PSS water rate was reduced by 98.4 percent from \$44.30 to 72 cents per 1,000 to 3,000 gallons. Its wastewater rate was also re-

duced by 95.6 percent from \$68 per 1,000 gallons to \$3 for 1,000 to 6,000 gallons.

Sasamoto said that PSS is also taking care of other liabilities and admitted that only "current liabilities" could be taken care of in the fiscal year 2014 budget.

"Just for the current liabilities, that would eat up our funding for this fiscal year," he said, adding that PSS—like the government—has to find a balance somehow in its operational budget.

PSS was appropriated \$33 million for fiscal year 2014. The bulk of this amount—\$28.6 million—is earmarked for personnel cost.

PSS has more than 900 employees funded by the local budget; over 400 of them are classroom teachers.

FOR TERMINATING DEDUCTING REBATES

Dynasty files court action vs TCGCC

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The owner of Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino has filed a court action against the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission over TCGCC's termination of the company's years of practice of deducting rebates from the computation of the casino gross revenue to attract gamblers to play and play longer.

Hong Kong Entertainment (Overseas) Investments Ltd., through counsel G. Anthony Long, has filed a petition asking the Superior Court to review TCGCC's order.

Long asked the court to set aside TCGCC's order and decision that, according to him, were "arbitrary, capricious, and not in accordance with law."

Long stated in the petition that on May 21, 2013, TCGCC issued an order that altered the 15-year policy for calculating the casino revenue tax by requiring inclusion of rebates in determining the casino gross revenues.

He said that Hong Kong Entertainment (Overseas) Investments Ltd. promptly objected to the commission's order and asked for a hearing.

A hearing was held on Aug. 7, 2013. On Sept. 17, 2013, the commission denied Hong Kong Entertainment's objections.

Long asserted that the procedures employed in issuing the commission's order and in addressing Hong Kong Enter-

tainment's objections are contrary to the Revised Act and statutory and constitutional due process.

"The agency action of altering the policy for calculating the casino revenue tax was arbitrary, capricious, and not in accordance with law," Long said.

In its Sept. 17, 2013, decision, the commission stopped Tinian

» **TCGCC finds Tinian Dynasty's rebate program improperly used to reduce tax**

Dynasty effective Nov. 1, 2013, from deducting rebates from the casino gross revenues.

The commission said that

Tinian Dynasty may continue to give rebates as an incentive but it must not deduct the rebates from the casino gross revenue and must correctly pay its taxes in accordance with the law.

Tinian Dynasty's rebate program is a marketing or incentive program to attract players to play and to play longer.

But according to the commission, the rebate program was improperly used by Tinian Dynasty to reduce the Gambling Revenue Tax it owes.

"The deduction of the rebates from the casino gross revenue was not authorized by the TCGCC and conflicts with the law defining what taxes are owed, defining casino gross revenues, and authorized adjustments of gambling revenue tax," TCGCC said in the order.

The commission's order was signed by its chair, Matthew C. Masga, vice chair Bernadita C. Palacios, and members Lydia F. Barcinas and Ignacio K. Quichocho.

Police hunting down woman who allegedly stole a TV set

Police are hunting down a woman who allegedly stole a flat screen TV from a house in Chalan Kanoa.

Department of Public Safety spokesman Travis Hurst said yesterday that police are seeking the assistance of the community in locating May-beleen Saimon, who is wanted pursuant to an arrest warrant for theft.

Hurst said the 30-year-old Saimon is also known as Nancy.

Saimon allegedly stole a 30" to 39" flat screen TV from a house in Chalan Kanoa on Oct. 9, 2013.

Hurst said police have attempted to search and apprehend the suspect at her known address and other areas that she frequented but failed to find her.

"Anyone who sees or knows Ms. Maybeleen Saimon's whereabouts is asked to call the DPS emergency line number 911 and call the Criminal Bureau of Investigation office at 664-9006. If you want to remain anonymous please contact the Crime Stoppers at 234-7272 or nmicrimestoppers.net," the DPS spokesman said.

Saimon was described as a Pohnpeian, about 5'2" to 5'3" in height, dark complexioned, and weighing 160 to 180 pounds.

In November 2006, Saimon was arrested for allegedly resisting police's arrest and interfering and obstructing a police officer's investigation into a man who was driving recklessly along Beach Road in San Jose. (Ferdie de la Torre)

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EMPOWERING WOMEN

HAGATNA, Guam—The Guam Women's Chamber of Commerce recently contributed to Oasis Empowerment the sum of \$1,000.00 raised through the generosity of its membership during its Nov. 14, 2013, general meeting. Oasis Empowerment Center is the only long term residential program for abused women, homeless women and children in Guam. Organization and membership information is available at the Chamber's web-site, www.guamwcc.com and on its Facebook page Guam Women's Chamber of Commerce. From left to right: Guam Women's Chamber of Commerce board members Denise Mendiola-Hertslet, Jackie Marati, Monica Guzman, Lou Leon Guerrero, Dr. Anita Borja-Enriquez, Toni Sanford, Dr. Mary Okada, Oasis Empowerment grants administrator Holly Rustick, GWCC board members Vanessa Ji, Siska Hutapea, Doyon Ahn-Morato, and GWCC executive director Eileen Agahan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

FSA to producers: Expect payment cuts due to sequester

WASHINGTON—USDA's Farm Service Agency is reminding farmers and ranchers who participate in FSA programs to plan accordingly in fiscal year 2014 for automatic spending reductions known as sequestration.

The Budget Control Act of 2011 mandates that federal agencies implement automatic, annual reductions to discretionary and mandatory

spending limits. For mandatory programs, the sequestration rate for fiscal year 2014 is 7.2 percent. Accordingly, FSA is implementing sequestration for the following programs:

Dairy Indemnity Payment Program; Marketing Assistance Loans; Loan Deficiency Payments; Sugar Loans; Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program; Tobacco Tran-

sition Payment Program; 2013 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payments; 2013 Average Crop Revenue Election Program; 2011 and 2012 Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program; Storage, handling; and Economic Adjustment Assistance for Upland Cotton.

Conservation Reserve Program payments are specifically exempt by statute from sequestration, thus these pay-

ments will not be reduced.

"These sequester percentages reflect current law estimates; however with the continuing budget uncertainty, Congress still may adjust the exact percentage reduction. Today's announcement intends to help producers plan for the impact of sequestration cuts in FY2014," said FSA Administrator Juan M. Garcia. "At this time, FSA is required

to implement the sequester reductions. Due to the expiration of the Farm Bill on September 30, FSA does not have the flexibility to cover these payment

reductions in the same manner as in FY13. FSA will provide notification as early as practicable on the specific payment reductions." (**USDA**)

GDP

From Page 1

lowing six straight years of decline.

Moreover, the 2012 GDP of \$593 million is nowhere near the over \$1.2 billion in 2002 or \$1 billion in 2005 when the CNMI still had two major industries: tourism and garment manufacturing.

The last garment factory on Saipan closed in 2009, and the GDP sank to \$598 million that year.

But if it's any consolation, while the CNMI's GDP went up by 5.2 percent in 2012, American Samoa's shrank by 2.4 percent that year, based on data that BEA released in September.

Press secretary Angel Demapan, when sought for comment, said the administration is pleased with the 5.2-percent increase for the CNMI, a "significant" figure especially when reports indicate that the U.S. as a whole recorded a 2.8-percent increase in GDP.

"The report pointed to tourism as a key driver. With the uptick in visitor arrivals as of late, the administration certainly sees the high demand for workers in the

service industry to continue this trend in the CNMI's economy," Demapan told *Saipan Tribune*.

In October 2013 alone, arrivals to the CNMI jumped 19 percent compared to the same month last year, or from 26,767 to 31,886, the Marianas Visitors Authority said.

Because of these positive indications, Demapan said the administration remains hopeful that the federal government will recognize the importance of extending the transition period for CW workers.

"Such an extension would give the CNMI ample time to implement employment training programs necessary to build a viable and competitive resident workforce," he added.

If the CW program is not extended beyond Dec. 31, 2014, the CNMI loses immediate access to some 12,000 skilled and professional foreign workers that the economy has relied upon for decades.

'Unclear message'

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), in a statement, said the 2011 and 2012 data "are sending an unclear message about just where we are headed."

"Though, of course, we all we

want to believe that the strong growth in 2012 was the beginning of a trend that will continue," he said.

Sablan said the 2010 turnaround was largely the result of federal government grants to the CNMI and individuals from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

"And that spending seemed to have halted the freefall in our economy," the delegate said of ARRA grants.

Citing BEA data, Sablan said fluctuations in tourism, as well as local government austerity measures, were significant contributors to the ups and downs in GDP in 2011 and 2012.

The drop in tourism was attributed to the earthquake and tsunami that struck northern Japan in March 2011.

"Being largely dependent on one industry, tourism, makes our economy vulnerable to external factors," Sablan said. "That is why it is so important that we diversify the sources of our tourism. When one of the countries that sends us tourists suffers a problem, tourists from other countries will not replace the loss. But at least our economy will have some cushion."

This is why the CNMI has to

work hard to maintain the parole system that makes it easy for tourists from Russia and China to visit the Commonwealth, Sablan said.

"Looking at GDP should also remind us of the importance of keeping our population numbers up. Consumer spending is the bulk of GDP. Losing population, whether it is because people leave to find more opportunity or because of changes in immigration, hurts our economy. We cannot afford to lose any more population," he said.

BEA, a part of the U.S. Department of Commerce, began compiling GDP data for the CNMI and other U.S. insular areas in 2009 with funding from the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs.

In a statement yesterday, BEA said the release of the 2012 data reflects a one-year acceleration in the availability of the GDP estimates for the CNMI.

The data still lags the national survey of GDP, which is released one month after the end of each quarter.

But island GDP is catching up, Sablan said.

BEA plans to release the 2013 insular GDP estimates in the summer of 2014.

BIKE

From Page 1

lic Law 16-2, Section 8, these proposed fee increases will be increased by another 100 percent.

Leon Guerrero, along with at least seven other House members, introduced a bill that would increase the registration fee for bicycles from \$1.50 to \$7.50, a 400-percent increase.

The proposed registration fee for mopeds, scooters, and motorcycles up to 100cc is \$12.50, from \$10, or a 25-percent increase.

The proposed registration fee for motorcycles and motor scooters over 100cc is \$17.50, up from \$15 or a 16.6-percent increase.

Under House Bill 18-147, half of the fees collected from these vehicles are to be placed in a special account for the Bureau of Motor Vehicles with the Department of Public Safety commissioner in consultation with the BMV director as the expenditure authority.

Leon Guerrero, a former police officer and now chairman of the House Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations, said bicycle fees and laws have been in place since the signing of Public Law 3-11.

The original fee to register a bicycle, set in 1982, was \$1.50, he said.

When Public Law 16-2 Section was signed, it imposed a surcharge of 100 percent, increasing the total fee to \$3, Leon Guerrero said in his bill.

But Leon Guerrero said DPS

has yet to enforce laws pertaining to bicycles "that have been in the books for over 30 years."

"The Legislature finds that over the last 30 years, the Commonwealth did not collect any fees due to the fact that bicycles were not being registered with the Department of Public Safety and that the Department of Public Safety hasn't been enforcing such a law," he said.

Leon Guerrero said the number of cyclists in the CNMI has grown over the years as the sport gained popularity among residents. Many sporting events have also been held in the CNMI such as the annual XTERRA, Tagaman, Rota Blue Triathlons, Hell of the Marianas, and the Pika Festival Fun Bike Ride.

He said with the recent signing of Public Law 18-24 pertaining to the safety of cyclists on CNMI roads, "many cyclists have taken advantage of the public law but in some situations impede traffic flow."

Leon Guerrero said cyclists that hamper traffic are impeding motorists that are lawfully on the road with proper registration and insurance documents, unlike the cyclists occupying the road.

"In these tough economic times, it is imperative that the Commonwealth government enforce revenue-generating laws and start collecting fees that have never been collected since becoming law, he said.

The fees in HB 18-147 "will be increased by 100 percent pursuant to section 8 of Public Law 16-2."

Up to \$300M POB hinges on revenue-generating bills

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

Five months have passed since the signing of a law authorizing the Commonwealth Development Authority to issue pension obligation bonds of “up to \$300

2 witnesses testify in trial of ex-cop

The trial of a former Tinian police officer who is accused of sexually abusing a then 14-year-old girl in 2008 inside the Tinian police station began yesterday with the prosecution calling in two witnesses.

Saipan Tribune learned that two witnesses completed their testimonies yesterday. The trial of the 42-year-old Melvin Ilo Monkeya will resume at 8:30am today.

The trial is being held at the Superior Court Tinian. Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho is presiding.

Chief prosecutor Shelli Neal and assistant attorney general Chemere McField are prosecuting the case.

Attorney Jennifer Dockter is court-appointed counsel for Monkeya, who is charged with one count of sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree.

According to the prosecution, Monkeya admitted to having sex with the minor in November 2008. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

million,” but the administration and the Legislature have yet to firm up which revenue-generating bills would be the prime source of repayment for any such bonds to be floated. This is among the topics in today’s leadership meeting between the governor and lawmakers.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos yesterday called for a leadership meeting with the Legislature set for 1:30pm today in the governor’s conference room on Capital Hill.

The governor said the “pressing matters that must be addressed immediately” include the pension obligation bond, health insurance for government employees, and revenue-generating measures.

The administration initially said it expects only \$70 million to \$100 million to be floated, to help repay the government’s over \$300 million unpaid obligations to the Retirement Fund.

With the approval of the Fund’s global settlement agreement, there may be some adjustments in the initial expectations.

The idea of floating the maximum \$300 million has been tossed around, which some said could make it easier for the CNMI to meet the settlement agreement requirements, but the final decision rests with the governor and CDA.

But as of yesterday, press secretary Angel Demapan said “the amount is yet to be finalized until the whole process of floating

a bond goes through the necessary stages for approval.”

Demapan said the governor would like to consult with the Legislature on the whole issue of the POB “as the Legislature’s support will be needed for revenue generating bills aimed at repaying the bond.”

House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) said the more revenue-generating measures identified, passed, and signed into law, the better for the CNMI in terms of repayment ability.

The House has passed most of the revenue-generating bills it introduced since early this year and most of them are either still pending or defeated in the Senate.

The video lottery bill is now law but a request for proposals has yet to be issued. The Senate moved to essentially kill anew a House bill legalizing casinos on Saipan, while the electronic gaming bill has yet to clear the Senate.

CDA executive director Manny Sablan separately said yesterday there’s no decision yet on the amount to be floated. He said CDA has been working with its bond underwriter Barclays and bond counsel Orrick Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP on this.

“Hopefully we will have something in the next couple of weeks,” he said.

The initial bond float is dependent on the CNMI government’s credit rating and other factors.

The press secretary also said the governor called for today’s leadership meeting “because there is a need for our leaders to continue efforts to address current and pressing matters for the Commonwealth.”

“There’s still a great deal of work to do and the governor would like to ensure that all our leaders stay focused on getting things done for the betterment of our community and our people,” Demapan added.

Not all 29 lawmakers will be able to make it to the leadership meeting because they are either off-island or have previous commitments.

Rep. Ray Tebuteb (Ind-Saipan), meanwhile, said

there needs to be clarification whether all proceeds from a pension obligation bond should go to the NMI Retirement Fund as stated in the POB initiative that voters ratified, or to the Settlement Fund.

“The Retirement Fund is still alive, and there are over a dozen who opted out of the settlement agreement, meaning they are still members of the Retirement Fund, which is supposed to be helped by the POB. But the settlement agreement says opt-outs cannot get more than the class members. The government will have more problem, will need to raise more revenues to restore the 25 percent for settlement members,”

Tebuteb told *Saipan Tribune*.

Rep. Mario Taitano (Ind-Saipan), chairman of the House Committee on Retirement Issues, separately said he would like to ask the governor “when and how much” can the CNMI borrow at this time.

He said restoring the 25 percent pension cut among retirees could also be a key topic.

Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) called on senators to attend the leadership meeting.

The speaker said he would also like to bring up other issues during the meeting, including those related to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and the supplemental funding.



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SOLICITATION TO SUBMIT REQUESTS FOR CHARITABLE DONATIONS

Recently a motion was filed to reopen Civil Case No. CV-01-0031, *DOE I, et al., v. THE GAP, INC., et al.*, which was granted and Timothy H. Bellas, has been appointed by the U.S. District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands to distribute certain residual funds which were previously held in trust for a contingent liability that never required payment.

Therefore, a residual amount of money exists which, by the terms of the Settlement Agreement in the above entitled case, is to be donated to charity.

As a result, all non-profit organizations, who qualify for charitable status under Internal Revenue Code Section 501 (c), are asked to submit a request for a donation from this Residual Fund. Preference will be given to organizations whose charitable services are available to all members of the CNMI Community.

At a minimum, requests should state: 1) the amount requested; 2) describe what type of charitable activity the organization is involved in and 3) how any funds which may be donated to the organization would be used. Requests from organizations who are not well known as charitable, should also submit evidence of their 501(c) status.

Please send all donation requests to:

Timothy H. Bellas
P.O. Box 502845
Saipan, MP 96950

All requests must be in writing and received no later than December 13, 2013 in order to be considered.

The decision to donate and the amount of such donations are entirely discretionary. This solicitation shall create no rights or obligations in or to any third party. However, a proposed list of donations will be submitted to and is subject to the final approval by the U.S. District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ Timothy H. Bellas

CHC's lone orthopedic surgeon leaves for good

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

After weighing his options, Dr. Grant Walker has decided to leave Saipan for good but he vowed to continue helping the CNMI, if not directly then

via email.

Walker is scheduled to go back to Idaho today to continue his practice. His departure will leave the Commonwealth Health Center with no orthopedic surgeon once more.

Walker was recruited from

Idaho for a temporary 30-day contract with the public hospital on a \$185,000 per annum base. He temporarily succeeded Dr. Ruben Arafles as CHC's orthopedic surgeon.

Interim Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. CFO Cora

Ada confirmed that Walker has already been paid for the initial 120 hours service he rendered. The rest of his salary is expected in the next pay period.

In an interview yesterday, Walker had nothing but appreciation for the CNMI and its people. Despite what he described as "mud-slogging" with interim corporation CEO Esther Muña, he said his one-month experience on island was worthwhile and memorable.

Walker's exit was put on the spotlight after his privileges at CHC was terminated by the corporation's governing body four days before his temporary contract expired. Reasons for the immediate termination include allegations of unprofessional conduct and insubordination, which Walker denied.

Prior to his departure, Walker had said he would move to private practice here in the CNMI. He offered, however, to con-

tinue providing free advice to CHC patients and families needing orthopedic services.

By terminating his privileges to use CHC's facilities, Walker could not operate as an orthopedic surgeon in the private sector due to lack of operating room for his surgeries.

Before leaving the island, Walker said he wants to convey how grateful he is to the islands and its people, whom he has learned to love and care about. He said he is very much willing to serve the CNMI if another opportunity comes around.

"Other than the mud-slogging on both sides, I feel 110 percent positive about this island. And if another opportunity comes, I am very much ready and willing to come back and serve this island," he told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Raised in Idaho's "cowboy culture," Walker described the local culture as very similar to

his family's practice. He expressed his admiration of how people of the island show cultural respect for one another.

If there's one thing he regrets about his stay, it's the squabble that became a battle of pride between his camp and the interim CEO. "People of Saipan ultimately paid the prize [for that]."

As a visiting physician, Walker pointed out the need for an "outpatient surgery/birthing center" under a public-private partnership. In this setup, Walker said, the government owns the center and equipment while private physicians lease the center for their practice. "This way, I think surgery center will go a long way."

Once this is built, CHC's surgery and birthing departments could handle more difficult services "while smaller ones can be taken cared of at the outpatient surgery/birthing center."

Walker said the public may contact him at Dr.GrantWalker@gmail.com for free medical advice.

NMC panel denies ex-faculty members' appeal, grievance

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College management has been found to have not committed any wrongful act when it terminated the employment of Wil Maui and did not renew the contract of Romeo Cuellar in August this year.

These were the recent decisions issued by NMC's appeals committee, which heard and processed the faculty members' cases.

Saipan Tribune learned that the panel's decisions were released late last month. It was learned that Maui filed an appeal while Cuellar lodged a

grievance against NMC president Dr. Sharon Hart.

Cuellar is the former counselor for Disabilities Support Services while Maui is a former computer instructor at the college.

Maui confirmed the denial but refused to comment further.

"Yes, I got a response back from the appeals committee and the committee denied my appeal," Maui told *Saipan Tribune* in a Nov. 21 email. As of yesterday, requests for further comments and reaction were not returned.

Saipan Tribune also tried to obtain Cuellar's reaction but he declined to comment.

Saipan Tribune learned that the appeals panel was chaired by board vice chair Elaine Orilla-Hocog.

Maui, through his lawyer Mark B. Hanson, filed his three-page appeal on Aug. 27 with the Board of Regents and Hart. A hearing was sought on the case as well as the creation of an employee appeals committee at the college.

Maui was issued a termination notice on Aug. 20, citing him for insubordination and refusal to do assigned work.

Maui denied the allegation, saying NMC breached his contract by terminating him without cause.

Notice to Residents

China Town and Upper MIHA

This notice is to inform all residents in the China Town and Upper MIHA areas that the CNMI Water Task Force Leak Detection and Repair Project is moving temporarily to this area. Work will be suspended in the Garapan to Quartermaster Road area until needed materials arrive. Crews will be working in the China Town and Upper MIHA area for the next 3-4 weeks. They will be isolating lines to detect leaks, replacing valves and repairing leaks. This may mean residents will experience temporary water outages, cloudy/discolored water in the lines, and changes in pressure. This inconvenience is necessary to identify and repair leaks which will lead to improved water service and lower water costs.

CNMI WATER TASK FORCE

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

After a successful first-ever garage sale for the victims of Super Typhoon Haiyan, Saipan Rotary Club is gearing up for its next campaign—holiday presents for the island's children and youths.

Saipan Rotary Club president Laila Y. Boyer disclosed that club members will be kicking off the organization's "Toy for Tots" campaign on Friday, Dec. 6.

The drive aims to collect toys for the CNMI's children in time for the Christmas holidays.

Boyer said all donated toys will be turned over to the CNMI Salvation Army, a non-profit organization that helps poor children and their families.

The Salvation Army-CNMI Chapter, she said, has already identified would-be beneficiaries of the toy drive. Rotarians are encouraging the community to donate toys for infants, toddlers, and youths.

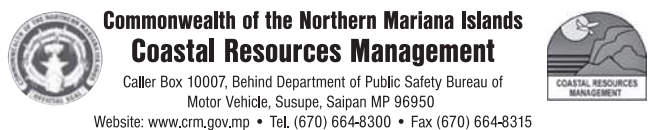
According to Boyer, last Saturday's garage sale was the first ever conducted by the Rotarians, who joined in the relief efforts for Haiyan victims in both the Philippines and Palau. Proceeds of the garage sale will be turned over to the chartered Rotary clubs in both countries.

"This is the first time, in a long while, that Rotary engaged in disaster relief and we feel that we would like to do it," she said, adding that Rotary is not in business of emergency relief but "in helping people."

When asked what inspired members to spearhead the series of community-driven activities and campaign, Boyer said: "It's service above self. Most of the Rotarians have been in the club for 10 years or more and activities for the community motivated them to share and give...and that's the core of Rotary Club."

She pointed out that for the past 45 years, the club has always offered the community the best it can to help. "We want to be more engaged with a lot of issues. As a non-political organization, we want to continue to grow."

Boyer said the club would also soon kick off its dental clinic project on Rota while it continues to develop and build the first Kagman Children's Park.



COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT NOTICE OF MEETING OF THE CRM AGENCY OFFICIALS

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Jude U. Hofschneider through the Coastal Resources Management Office (CRMO) hereby give notice that a CRM Agency Officials Meeting will be held on Friday, December 06, 2013, at 10:00 A.M. at the CRM Office located behind the Department of Public Safety Bureau of Motor Vehicle in Susupe.

AGENDA

- I. **PRELIMINARY MATTERS**
 - a) Call to Order
 - b) Roll Call
- II. **PERMIT APPLICATION**

SEA TOUCH, LLC - Sharks & Ray Marine Park CRM PERMIT NO. SMS-2013-X-070

 - a. Permit Application Summary
 - b. Discussion by CRM Agencies/CRMO
 - c. Permit Application Status
- III. **OTHER MATTERS**
- IV. **ADJOURNMENT**

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. (Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/ ANA C. AGUILTO
Acting Administrator

PUBLIC NOTICE

LOTTERY COMMISSION MEETING

Notice is provided of a scheduled meeting of the Lottery Commission on December 5 at 2 p.m. in the Governor's Conference Room Juan Sablan Memorial Building – Capitol Hill Saipan. The public is welcome to submit written or oral communications regarding the agenda below.

- 1) **Preliminary Matters**
 - (a) Call to order
 - (b) Roll call
 - (c) Adoption of agenda
- 2) **Proposed Regulations**
- 3) **Requests for Proposal Structure**
- 4) **Other Matters**
- 5) **Public Comments**
- 6) **Adjournment**

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB 14-DLNR/DFW-020**

**SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: DECEMBER 11, 2013
TIME: 10:30 A.M.**

**"DEPLOYMENT OF FOUR (4) FISH AGGREGATING DEVICES (FAD) SYSTEM SURROUNDING
THE CNMI WATERS OF TINIAN AND ROTA. A PROJECT UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF LANDS
AND NATURAL RESOURCES, DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE"**

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK AND SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ ARNOLD I. PALACIOS
SECRETARY OF DLNR

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

**Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government**

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

RFP NO.: RFP14-DPL-005

Submission Date: December 27, 2013 Time: 10:00 A.M.

**"SINGLE AUDIT FOR FY 2013 (FINANCIAL AND COMPLIANCE SERVICES)
FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS"**

The complete Scope of Work for this project will be available on or after November 26, 2013 and may be picked-up at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Drive during regular working hours.

All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing by email to Pedro A. Tenorio, Secretary of Public Lands at pete.tenorio@dpl.gov.mp or to Ms. Rosalinda J. Ayuyu at rayuyu@dpl.gov.mp or by fax to (670) 234-3755 no later than 4:30 p.m., local time, on December 16, 2013.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals; in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfection in a bid in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All bids shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/ Pedro A. Tenorio
Secretary of Public Lands

/s/ Herman S. Sablán
Director, Proc. & Supply

UFO raises \$11K for Yolanda victims



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

United Filipino Organization president Annamae Adaza is joined by other officers and members in presenting the check to honorary consul nominee Eli Arago.

The United Filipino Organization raised more than \$11,000 for victims of Typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan), which devastated large swaths of the central Philippines on Nov. 8 and left over 5,000 dead in its wake.

UFO president Annamae Adaza said they were able to raise a total of \$11,184.64 through fund drives at the Sabalu Market at the Civic Center, Flea Market at the Marianas Business Plaza, and Tuesday and Thursday markets at the Garapan Fishing Base, on top of donations from companies, private individuals, and other organizations.

"We are so grateful for the whole CNMI community that participated in the fund drive and relief efforts for the victims back home. I always believe that we can accomplish a lot of things if we all work together and if we don't care who gets the credit. The true meaning of extending help means you don't expect something in return," she said.

The money will be forwarded to ABS-CBN's Sagip Kapamilya program.

Honorary consul nominee

Eli Arago said he was pleasantly surprised at the amount of money raised by the group, saying it only goes to show that compassion and the drive to help people in need are very much alive not only among overseas Filipinos on Saipan but also among other nationalities on the island.

Arago said the money raised is also quite impressive if one takes into account that the previous fund drive for the victims of the Bohol earthquake also raised \$5,000.

Adaza echoed Arago's amazement. "Since we just concluded the earthquake fund drive, we didn't expect that we can collect more but just watching the news it touched a lot of people's hearts and the help was overwhelming."

UFO also initiated an in-kind donation campaign in tandem with LBC Mabuhay, which agreed to ship the donated items free of charge to the Philippines, where it will be turned over the Philippine Red Cross. A total of 401 boxes were filled with items such as clothes, shoes, canned goods, blankets, etc.

FOA presents Christmas fundraiser for typhoon relief, Salvation Army

This weekend The Friends of the Arts will be presenting *All I Want for Christmas*, a musical variety show with vocals, instrumentals and heartwarming performances. The program will include violin performances by the Do Re Mi School of Music.

The shows will be held on Friday and Saturday, Dec. 6 and 7, both starting at 7pm, at the Pedro Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. Admission is \$12 for FOA members and guests, \$15 for adults, \$8 for students (to include NMC) and \$5 for Thespians; children age

4 and under are not charged. Season ticket holders and advertisers are prepaid. There is no need to bring the ticket.

All funds collected for admission will be donated to the Typhoon Haiyan relief effort. Cash and canned food donations will also be accepted at each show for the CNMI Chapter of the Salvation Army. The Friends of the Arts will match the amount of cash donations. Refreshments will also be sold at intermission to support the mission of the Salvation Army. (FOA)

The companies, organizations, and individuals that donated are the following: LBC Mabuhay, Docomo Pacific, Shell gas stations, Shenanigan's Restaurant, Genpro International Inc., Pacific Marine and Industrial Corp., HBR International, Inc., Godfather's Bar, Barney's Pizza & Pasta House, Don Pedro Restaurant, Cargo Express (Saipan), Inc., KWAU 100.3 FM, High Pitch Band, Dollar Days, Marianas Business Plaza, Pacific Homes, Bangon Kabayan Group, National Office Supply, D&Q, D' Elegance Café, Jhems Restaurant, Kentucky Fried Chicken, Pink House, Get Covered Tent, Gold Ribbon, Shirley's Catering, Dhag Saña, Diamond Auto Parts,

Dolphin Wholesale, Green Consume, Happy Market As Lito, Traders Insurance, Ms. Charie of Koblerville, Tina Borja, Give a dollar donation c/o Rachele Alturas, GIG Discotheque, WTT (USA) LLC, McDonald's Saipan, TC Catering, Art Man Corp., Merle Hudkins, Carmela Palijo, Jim Arenovski, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan staff, students from Marianas High School, Saipan Southern High School, Garapan Elementary School, San Vicente Elementary School, Houseworker, RNV Construction, CMS, Bayani Association, MDX Radio Club, Triskelion, MIFICPA, Kapit Bisig, NMC, BIBAK, Masons Group, LBC staff, Visminda, KSPN, Lions Club, Cornerstone Church, Tan Holdings, BOHOLANO, and Office of Aging. (Saipan Tribune)

Holiday Season 2013 Drunk Driving Prevention Campaign November 25, 2013 - January 01, 2014



No matter how many times you've heard it,
there are people who just don't get it —
DRINKING AND DRIVING DON'T MIX.

Chances are you'll get caught and Chances are you can't afford to:

WHAT THAT LAST DRINK CAN COST YOU:

Vehicle towing and storage fee	\$ 100.00
Car insurance premium fee	\$ 1,300.00
DUI penalty fee	\$ 500.00
Reckless Driving	\$ 250.00
Court fee	\$ 100.00
DUI classes	\$ 100.00
Attorney fees	\$ 2,500.00
Community service	100 hrs.
Missed working days	3 days-1 month

TOTAL \$ 4,850.00

Fee based on costs from various locations



Department of Public Safety

For more information call:

SAIPAN 664-9001/2 • TINIAN 433-9222 • ROTA 532-9433



United continues to promote Guam in China

- **Six roundtrip charter flights for Chinese New Year in 2014**
- **Flights to bring more than 900 Chinese visitors to Guam**

GUAM—United Airlines has announced it will operate charter flights from China to Guam for the seventh consecutive year to meet growing demand.

The airline will offer a total of six roundtrip Boeing 737-800 charter flights from Shanghai and Beijing during the 2014 Chinese New Year peak season and ex-

pects to bring a total of more than 900 visitors from China to Guam.

“We’re excited about working with our travel agency partners and United’s sales team in China to again bring Chinese visitors to Guam,” said Sam Shinohara, United’s managing director of Business Development for Asia Pacific. “United is the leading airline between China and the U.S. and we are using our knowledge

of the market to promote Guam as an attractive beach and shopping destination to travelers from China, which represents one of the world’s fastest-growing markets for leisure travel.”

United Airlines and United Express operate an average of more than 5,300 flights a day to more than 360 airports across six continents. For more information, visit united.com. *(United)*

2013 SAIPAN’S NEXT TOP CHEF

Empty Vessel Ministry thanks sponsors, volunteers

More families on Saipan will be receiving assistance this holiday season with funds raised from the Empty Vessel Ministry’s recently concluded 3rd Annual Saipan’s Next Top Chef Competition. The annual charity event was held Saturday, Nov. 30, at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

Empty Vessel Ministry Foundation founder Rose Smith expressed her appreciation to the competition’s major sponsors: Delta Air Lines, J.C. Tenorio Enterprises, and PIC Saipan.

“The 3rd Annual Saipan’s Next Top Chef Competition was made possible by the support from the local businesses and community. We are so grateful for their generosity which will

help provide assistance to needy families, especially for women and children,” she said.

Other businesses that contributed in-kind and other donations to the competition were Hyatt Regency Saipan, Kanoa Resort, I Love Saipan, Bridge Capital, AA Enterprises/ Mobil Tanapag, McDonald’s, Nana Creations, Marianas Resort & Spa, Coca Cola Beverages, Wushin Corp., Spicy Thai Noodle Place, IT&E, *Saipan Tribune*, *Marianas Variety*, Saipan Super Saver, Herman’s Modern Bakery, and Pacific Trading Co.

Smith congratulated all five who took part in the cooking competition, which was won by Rhea Backe, a homemaker with

15 years of cooking experience who wowed the judges with her “Steak Portobello with Orange Marmalade.”

Other contenders were Alfredo Capacio of Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Keim Eina of Hyatt Regency Saipan (runner-up), Marvin Bisalen of Pacific Islands Club, and Richard Meimban of Marianas Resort & Spa Saipan (second runner-up).

Smith also thanked Nola Hix, the competition’s judges, and past winners of the fundraising event: Emmanuel Pancha from Marianas Resort (2012) and Melquiades De Ramos from Fiesta Resort & Spa (2011).

“We sincerely appreciate the participation Nola Hix of Xerox

who was the emcee and did a terrific job. A big thank you to our distinguished judges ‘The Food Guy from Guam’ Ken Steward, director of Medical Affairs at CHC Dr. Sherleen Osman, and Attorney General Joey P. San Nicolas. Many thanks also to our tabulators from MIFICPA (Marianas Institute of CPAs and Accountants)”

Kagman High School culinary students assisted the competing chefs at the event.

Empty Vessel is a 501(c)(3) charity and all donations are tax deductible. Visit the Empty Vessel Ministry Foundation on its Facebook page, or the website at www.emptyvesselministry.org. *(Saipan Tribune)*

\$39K to fund canoe carving, weaving classes in Yap

On Nov. 17, U.S. Ambassador Doria Rosen presented Larry Raigetel, director of Waa’gey, with a \$39,000 check from the Ambassador’s Fund for Cultural Preservation. The money will be used by Waa’gey to fund their program, preserving traditional valuable knowledge and skills through canoe carving and weaving, which will offer 40 youth (20 boys and 20 girls) a chance to participate and learn traditional skills.

The boys will work in Colonia, Yap, at two canoe houses that have been provided by the Yap Living History Museum. They will learn the art of canoe carving, and traditional fish trap making. The girls will work with the women’s group in Ruu village. They will learn to weave the royal “Machiy,” which is an intricate woven fabric for chiefs. Canoe craftsmanship, Machiy weaving, and fish trap making are high-

ly specialized skills that are beginning to fade from Outer Island Yapese culture.

Locating the canoe carving project at the Yap Living History Museum site will enable school groups from around the island to visit the project. They will be able to learn firsthand some of the skills being taught in the canoe houses, and benefit by gaining an early appreciation of valuable past cultural practices.

The AFCP is extremely competitive. Each year, U.S. ambassadors from around the world submit proposals for funding through the AFCP fund. Rosen was very pleased that the proposal from FSM was accepted and funded. She was even more pleased to present Waa’gey and its trainers with the check, which will allow them to expand their efforts to train the youth of Yap State. *(U.S. Embassy)*

TRAINING SCHEDULES

Military training on Farallon de Medinilla

ASAN, Guam—The Navy and Marines will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla during the following dates and times:

- Dec. 3 from 4:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- Dec. 4 from 11 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- Dec. 5 from 7 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Dec. 6 from 2:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The general public especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants. *(PR)*

Air Force training at Warning Area 517

ASAN, Guam—The Air Force will conduct training at Warning Area 517 during the following dates and times:

- Dec. 3 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Dec. 4 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and 8-11 p.m.
- Dec. 5 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 8:30-11:30 p.m.
- Dec. 6 from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The general public especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated.

W-517 is activated South of latitude 12° 00’ 00”N. All vessels are advised to remain clear of W-517 South of latitude 12° 00’ 00”N. Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank are open for public use.

W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprising of 14,000 nautical square miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. W-517 supports surface and aerial gunnery, missiles, and laser exercises. *(PR)*

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS’ HEADLINES

December 3, 2005

Checks and balances in next administration stressed

The House minority bloc yesterday said the system of checks and balances should be maintained in the next administration, amid a possible Covenant Party rule in the Legislature. The incumbent minority members met Thursday to come up with a plan to get the House leadership. The Republican representatives want Minority Leader Arnold Palacios to be the next speaker always nice politically to have one party controlling the executive and legislative branches. It could help get things done smoothly. But it’s also important to have a check and balance, no matter who the governor is, said Rep. Ramon Tebuteb, spokesperson for the minority bloc.

NWA reaffirms commitment to CNMI

Northwest Airlines reaffirmed yesterday its long-term commitment to the CNMI, noting that this destination will remain attractive to tourists. We continue to make a long-term commitment. It’s not only because my position allows me to say it, but I really mean it. The natural beauty of the islands offers a very good thing to Japanese tourists, said NWA-Japan chairman Jun Mokudai in yesterday’s Marianas Visitors Authority general membership meeting held at Royal Taga Room of Saipan World Resort. Northwest came to the aid of the CNMI just when Japan Airlines announced its pullout from the Marianas. Northwest launched its Saipan-Osaka daily flights on Oct. 1, which is aimed to pick up over one-third of the passenger traffic brought in by JAL which terminated its regular flights after 28 years on Oct. 4.

December 3, 2006

Continental, NWA fail to ink airport accord

Continental Micronesia and Northwest Airlines failed to sign the Commonwealth Port Authority’s new airport user agreement before the Nov. 30 deadline, CPA said. During a board meeting Thursday, CPA executive director Clyde Norita said that both airlines had asked for another extension. “But we’ve extended the deadline since July. Other airlines were able to meet the deadline,” said Norita. He said that when he came on board, the extension deadline to beat was Oct. 30, from Sept. 30. “I extended again the Oct. 30 [deadline] to Nov. 30. We’ve informed them that effective Dec. 1, they will be charged a non-signatory rate at the airport,” said Norita.

Labor cites 46% complaints closure rate

The Department of Labor has cited a 46-percent closure rate for labor complaints this year. Alfred Pangelinan, in his remarks during the first annual workforce development summit held Thursday, said there were 4,417 total complaints filed from 1997 to 2006. A total of 2,151 of these complaints remained as of January this year. As of Oct. 30, 2006, he said that the department has solved 997 of these cases. “The new administration inherited 2,151 pending labor complaints from 1997 to 2006. There were 997 cases closed in the 10-month period. This is a 46-percent closure ratio,” said Pangelinan.

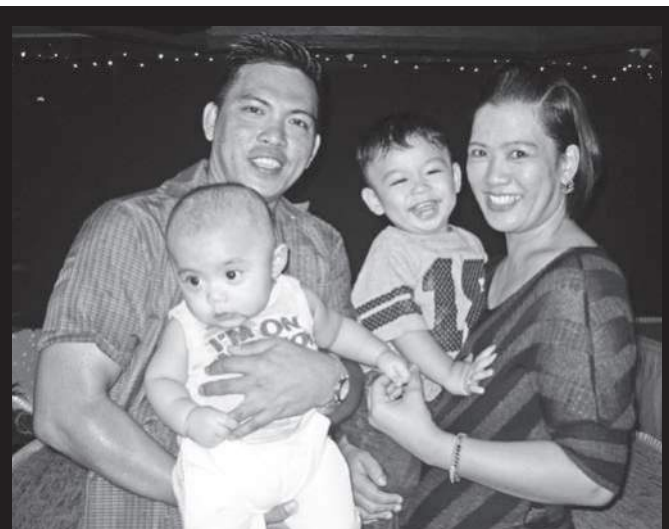
December 3, 2007

Neo Fashion shutting down

Garment manufacturer Neo Fashion Inc. is shutting down operations on Saipan by Jan. 13, 2008. The closure will affect 78 employees who are mostly nonresident workers. The San Antonio-based Neo Fashion is the fourth garment factory to announce closure and suspension of factory operations on the island within the last month. Neo Fashion, through its general manager Hee Chan Lee, recently informed Department of Labor acting director James Ulloa about its plan to cease operations. In the company’s letter to Ulloa, Lee said it is an unfortunate decision for the management.

‘Guam buildup is also good for its neighbors’

The planned military buildup on Guam presents job opportunities not only for Guam residents, but for their neighbors as well, a ranking federal official says. Speaking at the College of Marshall Islands on Thursday, the U.S. deputy assistant secretary of insular affairs said that 12,000 to 15,000 skilled workers will be needed to build facilities to accommodate the transfer of 8,000 Marines and 9,000 family members from Okinawa to Guam. With the limited number of journeyman construction workers that can work on Guam, it is estimated that 75 percent of the workers will have to come from outside Guam, said David B. Cohen.



HAPPY CHRISTENING

Welcome to the Christian world to Thirdy Evangelista, shown here being held by dad Arnel Evangelista, with mom Ara Mendoza and brother Arnel Evangelista, after the Christening on Nov. 30, 2013, at the JC Cafe-Tinian.



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy 5th birthday to Hayashi Daniel C. Pua, who is celebrating his birthday today. May you be blessed with many more birthdays to come! We love you! Greeting coming from Celis-Pua family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

5 Haiyan affected hospitals to get donated supplies

Five Philippine hospitals in the areas devastated by the passage of Typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda will receive much needed medical supplies because of the Guam Regional Medical City, a Philippine hospital now based in Guam. GRMC started the ball rolling with a \$50,000 donation to the Ayuda Foundation that had to be matched in order to purchase 40-foot containers of medical supplies and equipment.

The donation was quickly matched with a donation of \$10,000 from the Bank of Guam and \$40,000 from the Filipino Community of Guam raised by the Government of Guam. The combined funds paid for five 40-foot containers, the contents selected by the recipient hospitals. As funds were being raised, Ayuda was in contact with its working partner, Med-Share International (www.medshare.org) out of San Leandro, Cali-

fornia. Med-Share receives free donations of medical supplies, equipment, and supplies from manufacturers and hospitals, enabling them to offer 40-foot containers for \$20,000. The containers cost the same whether filled with medical supplies or costly medical equipment and, depending on how the contents are picked, each can have a value of over a million dollars if the hospital were to purchase the items. This is the fourth time Med-

Share has partnered with the Ayuda Foundation network to respond to a disaster in the Philippines. The process of selecting the hospitals began with outreach to the national government, local business networks, NGO's, media, and first-hand reports. The justification for each hospital was also debated by the Filipino Community of Guam prior to selection. Due to its relationship with The Medical City Iloilo,

GRMC was able to put together a two-man team of experts in hospital materials and supplies to assist one of the nearby selected hospitals, Iloilo Provincial Hospital, with the paperwork required to access the voluminous Med-Share inventory. The Ayuda Foundation has identified the paperwork as a known bottleneck that slows down delivery of the donated medical cargo because hospital administrators are over-

whelmed by the disaster. The first five hospitals selected by the Filipino Community of Guam are the Ormoc District Hospital in Ormoc City, Leyte; Roxas Memorial Provincial Hospital in Roxas City, Capiz; Divine Word Hospital (St. Paul's Hospital) in Tacloban City, Leyte; Iloilo Provincial Hospital in Iloilo; and Governor Celestino Gallares Memorial Hospital in Tagbilaran City. (Ayuda Foundation)

USCIS: Immigration relief for Haiyan-impacted Filipinos

In light of Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines (named "Yolanda" by Philippine authorities), U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services is reminding Filipino nationals that they may be eligible for certain immigration relief measures if requested. USCIS understands that a natural disaster can affect an individual's ability to establish or maintain lawful immigration status in the United States. Therefore, Filipino nationals impacted by Typhoon Haiyan may be eligible to benefit from the following immigration relief measures:

- Change or extension of nonimmigrant status for an individual currently in the United States, even when the request is filed after the authorized period of admission has expired;
- Extension of certain grants of parole made by USCIS;
- Extension of certain grants of advance parole, and expedited processing of advance parole requests;
- Expedited adjudication and approval, where possible,



of requests for off-campus employment authorization for F-1 students experiencing severe economic hardship;

- Expedited processing of immigrant petitions for immediate relatives of U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents, or LPRs;
- Expedited adjudication of employment authorization applications, where appropriate; and
- Assistance to LPRs stranded overseas without immigration or travel documents, such as Permanent Resident Cards (green cards). USCIS and the Department of State will coordinate on these matters when the LPR is stranded in a place that has no local USCIS office.

For more information on USCIS humanitarian programs, visit www.uscis.gov or call the National Customer Service Center at 1-800-375-5283. For information regarding disaster-related email scams, visit http://www.us-cert.gov "Alerts and Tips." (USCIS)



AQUA RESORT DONATION
John Hirsh, American Red Cross NMI Chapter executive director, left, receives a \$1,500 donation from Aqua Resort Club human resource manager Becky Cruz, on Monday, Dec. 2, 2013, at the NMI Chapter office on Airport Road. In lieu of their employee Christmas party, the employees decided to donate the appropriation toward the ongoing relief effort of Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines. AMERICAN RED CROSS



PUBLIC NOTICE

In accordance with the "Open Government Act", the Public School System State Board of Education, through their Special Education State Advisory Panel (SESAP), is hereby serving notice to the general public that it will hold its 3rd Quarter Meeting on Thursday, December 05, 2013, 5:00pm to 7:00pm at the Board of Education Conference Room, Susupe Saipan. This meeting is open to the public, interested individuals are welcome.

AGENDA

- I. Preliminary Matters
 - a. Roll Call
 - b. Presence of a Quorum
 - c. Adoption of Agenda
 - d. Adoption of Minutes – September 26, 2013
- II. Memorandum of Understandings
 - Office of Vocational Rehabilitation
 - Workforce Investment Agency
- III. Scholarships
- IV. Recruitment of New Members
- V. Election of Officers
- VI. Adjournment

In compliance with the American Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting, but require accessibility such as large print or sign language interpreters must call 237-3029. Several days notice is necessary to allow organizers ample time to make necessary arrangements.

/s/ Frances Diaz
Chairperson

/s/ Suzanne Lizama
Director, Special Education Program



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Coastal Resources Management
Caller Box 10007, Behind Department of Public Safety
Bureau of Motor Vehicle, Susupe, Saipan MP 96950
TEL. NO. 664-8300 • FAX NO. 664-8315

NOTICE OF APPLICATION
December 02, 2013

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE CRM OFFICES:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. GPPC	09/13/2013 SMS-87-X-110 (2013 Amend)	4K Gallons storage tank	Achugao	Amendment	Approved (09/19/2013)*
2. GPPC	09/04/2013 SPIm-2013-X-056	Roof Rehabilitation	Puerto Rico	Ports & Industrial APC	Approved (09/19/2013)*
3. Saipan Sea Ventures, Inc.	09/23/2013 SPIm-2013-X-057	Dry Dock	Delta Dock	Ports & Industrial APC	Approved (09/23/2013)*
4. DTC Saipan	09/25/2013 SSm-2013-X-058	Photographic Activities	Shoreline	Shoreline APC	Approved (09/25/2013)*
5. Saipan Crewboats	10/15/2013 SLRm-2013-X-059	In-water Vessel Maintenance	Lower Base	Lagoon & Reef APC	Approved (10/22/2013)*
6. Saipan Aqua World Inc	10/15/2013 SPIm-2013-X-060	Dry Dock	Able Dock	Ports & Industrial APC	Approved (10/17/2013)*
7. Pacific Marine Ent. Inc	10/15/2013 SPIm-2013-X-061	Dry Dock	South Sea Ramp	Ports & Industrial APC	Approved (10/17/2013)*
8. Saipan World Resort	10/11/2013 SMS-2004-X-121(A)	Storage Warehouse	Susupe	Amendment	Approved (10/21/2013)*
9. Saipan TV Production	10/31/2013 SSm-2013-X-062	Photographic Activities	Shoreline Areas	Shoreline APC	Approved (11/07/2013)*
10. Saipan Sea Ventures	11/11/2013 SPIm-2013-X-063	Dry Dock	Delta Dock	Ports & Industrial APC	Approved (11/06/2013)*
11. YM Micronesia Inc	11/16/2013 STLRm-2013-X-064	Photographic Activities	Shoreline Areas	Shoreline APC	Approved (11/16/2013)*
12. Kanoa Resort	11/12/2013 SLRm-2013-X-065	Seaweed & Sea grass Removal	Susupe	Lagoon & Reef APC	Approved (11/27/2013)*
13. Dept. of Public Lands	10/22/2013 SLRm-2013-X-066	Minor Repair Walkway	Managaha	Lagoon & Reef APC	Approved (11/27/2013)*
14. GPPC, INC	11/21/2013 TPLm-2013-X-067	Boat Ramp Repair	Tinian	Ports & Industrial APC	Approved (11/29/2013)*
15. Saipan Mayor's Office	11/19/2013 SSm-2013-X-068	Beautification Project	San Jose, Saipan	Shoreline APC	Under Review
16. CUC	11/20/2013 SPIm-2013-X-069	S-1 Lift station	Lower Base	Ports & Industrial APC	Approved (11/26/2013)"
17. Sea Touch, LLC	11/20/2013 SMS-2013-X-070	Sharks & Ray Marine Park	Fronting Fiesta Resort	Major Siting	Under Review

Publication of the above list is in accordance with CRM Regulations, which require all permit applications to be published in a local newspaper within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the CRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the CRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APC's) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local CRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a CRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the CRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the CRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the CRM Regulations.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

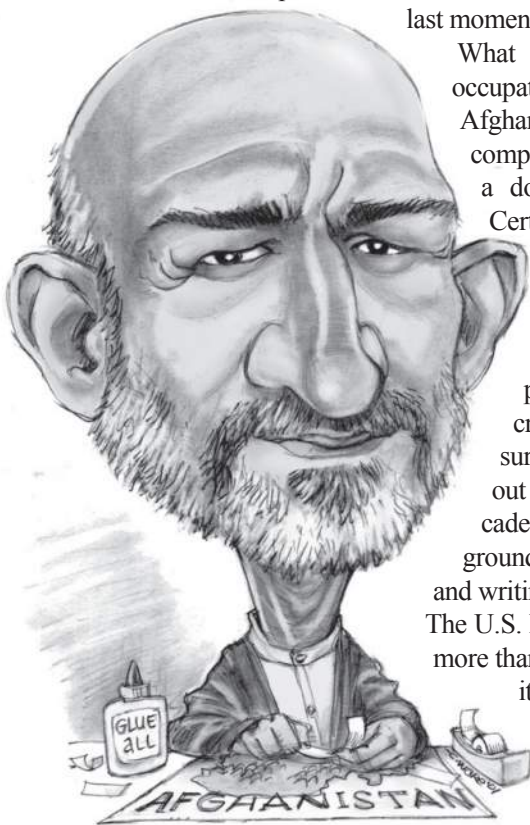
Leave Afghanistan

If Afghan President Hamid Karzai is having second thoughts about a 10-year security pact with the United States, think how Americans feel about this arrangement.

Doubt and angst can be summed up in this country by one word: Why? Twelve years of U.S. blood and treasure invested in that country produced what?

Another decade of putting U.S. lives at risk, enriching military contractors and sustaining Afghan political corruption is not in the least bit compelling for Americans.

The security agreement was endorsed Sunday by a council of elders, but now hinges on Afghan President Hamid Karzai endorsing a deal that keeps U.S. forces above the local law and allows U.S. raids on private homes. Karzai balked at the last moment.



What has U.S. occupation of Afghanistan accomplished in a dozen years? Certainly not enough stability and local competence and credibility to survive without another decade of the U.S. ground patrolling and writing checks. The U.S. has suffered more than 2,200 military deaths and legions of wounded veterans.

U.S. taxpayers have provided \$96.5 billion in reconstruction aid, according to The New York Times. That does not cover the cost of the military presence and support for local forces.

The United States cannot occupy the world in the name of security. The U.S. left Iraq, appropriately enough, when a deal to protect the military from local laws could not be signed.

Keeping 8,000 to 12,000 foreign troops in Afghanistan until 2024, most of whom would come from the United States, makes no sense.

The U.S. never understood the political, religious and social environment of Afghanistan. A dozen years of dubious achievements do not justify another decade of effort that has no genuine support on the ground.

President Karzai is torn about a continued U.S. presence. Let him see how he likes seeing the last plane leave.

(c)2013 The Seattle Times



India's dangerous 'food bubble'

India is now the world's third-largest grain producer after China and the United States. The adoption of higher-yielding crop varieties and the spread of irrigation have led to this remarkable tripling of output since the early 1960s. Unfortunately, a growing share of the water that irrigates three-fifths of India's grain harvest is coming from wells that are starting to go dry. This sets the stage for a major disruption in food supplies for India's growing population.

In recent years about 27 million wells have been drilled, chasing water tables downward in every Indian state. Even the typically conservative World Bank warned in 2005 that 15 percent of India's food was being produced by overpumping groundwater. The situation has not improved, meaning that about 190 million Indians are being fed using water that cannot be sustained. This means that the dietary foundation for about 190 million people could disappear with little warning.

India's grain is further threatened by global warming. Glaciers serve as reservoirs feeding Asia's major rivers during the dry season. As Himalayan and Tibetan glaciers shrink, they provide more meltwater in the near term, but there will be far less in the future. To complicate matters, the monsoon patterns are changing too, making these annual deluges more difficult to predict.

What India is experiencing is a "food bubble": an increase in food production based on the unsustainable use of irrigation water. And this is happening in a country where 43 percent of children under age 5 are underweight. A survey for Save the Children found that children in one out of four families experience "foodless days"—days where they do not eat at all. Almost half subsist on just one staple food, thus missing vital nutrients that come in a diversified diet.

Although poverty has been reduced for some, two-thirds of the population still live on less than \$2 a day, according to the World Bank. And the population is growing by nearly 30 million every two years, equal to adding another Canada to the number of people to feed. Within 20 years, India's population is expected to hit 1.5 billion, surpassing China.

To feed all those mouths, the government needs to go beyond the revamped food distribution program laid out in the Food Security Act signed into law in September. Averting a sudden and devastating collapse of the food bubble will require efforts to address the underlying threats to India's food system. This involves ramping up initiatives in health, family planning and education to put the brakes on population growth. It also means rethinking energy and transportation policies to reduce India's contribution to climate change. It is incredibly shortsighted to be building coal-fired power plants in a country where climate change threatens to worsen water shortages.

Overpumping aquifers is hard to stop, in part because it is invisible, only apparent once a well goes dry. In July, the Indian govern-

By **LESTER R. BROWN**
Los Angeles Times

Lester R. Brown is president of the Earth Policy Institute and the author of *Breaking New Ground: A Personal History and Full Planet, Empty Plates: The New Geopolitics of Food Scarcity*. He wrote this for the *Los Angeles Times*.



ment belatedly announced that it would boost spending to map out the country's aquifers to better understand water availability and the rate of depletion, but this is just one step. The energy subsidies that encourage heavy overpumping of underground water will have to be phased out. Traditional water harvesting—capturing the excess water that comes during monsoons in small ponds—can help create a buffer. Farmers can also reduce water use by using more-efficient irrigation techniques and by growing less thirsty crops—for example, more wheat and less rice.

Today's situation is reminiscent of what I found in 1965 when I was sent to India by U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Orville Freeman to help evaluate the country's forthcoming five-year plan. There were drought conditions in almost every corner of the country. It quickly became clear to me that the harvest would not come close to meeting the estimated demand. Without food aid, famine would be unavoidable.

I alerted Freeman, met with U.S. and Indian officials and drafted a plan. Thus was born President Lyndon B. Johnson's "short tether" policy, tying U.S. grain shipments to India to a restructuring of India's agriculture. The U.S. government's shipment of 10 million tons of grain—one-fifth of the U.S. harvest that year—to India in 1965 became the largest food relief effort in history.

Today, food security is India's No. 1 challenge, as it was half a century ago, even though the country now produces close to 240 million tons of grain compared with the 95 million tons needed in 1965.

Will we witness famine if many wells run dry at the same time? Or will the United States be called on to again come to the rescue?

With a third of the U.S. grain harvest now going to fuel for cars and another third going to feed livestock, U.S. exports are down. Global demand is increasing rapidly as populations expand and as more people move up the food chain, consuming grain-intensive animal products. A tightening grain situation means rising food prices for all, a trend that will continue without a global mobilization to use water more efficiently and quickly stabilize population and climate.

In the meantime, we hope India's wells won't run dry too soon.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Hinana gi lemlem tautau

Megai gi entre hita man-gaige gi idat `nai esta talie` felis hinana famaguon-ta kontodu famaguon niha. Man-mannae` hit satton mit grasias gi Saina pot tod u i bendisioña.

Gi halom i tropa, guaha taglayu`, tramosu, kabron, sentidu, me-fnu`, respondot, silensiu, pitbetsu, antau, diskalentau, fiet gi espiri-tuat, katma gi halom mattiru, pasensia, yan mesñgon.

Ayu mas na patgonhu gumana korasonhu i umakudeyu` gi halom tasin didog na pinebleña lau ni unabes `nai umuguñg. Ha chogue haf` che`chu tautau maseha ñgai`an `nai hu uguñge. Esta hana` tu-tuhu` lago`hu `an mattu gi hinasoghu piot `nai kulan ha gacha`yu` ume`emahalañg nu guiya antes de oran deskansu. Motmut tinayuy-othu diariu na u soda`un` dia ginefsagaña.

Gi tod kinalamten, mau`udai felis hinana kada familia gi are-glom dos saina. `An un` pasensiaye ya un` kayun mona kareran todus, siha lokue` man-satton para uma-onra man-mafananaguen niha. Kada koyentura mabira dibuenamente pot no una` fan ma-mahlau mañainan niha. Haf`un` tanom siempre u doku` ya u lachog gi pinegamu gi halom hatdin familia.

I modun famaguon-mu espehosmu mismu.

Sugat nigas

Offisioña un` tatan amiguu mananom gi dikiki` na hatdin gi tatten guma`. Man-bonitu siha tinanomña. Regulatmiente ha rega hanom yan dididi` abonu.

Un` biahe hu repara mihagon lau dikiki` na troñku. Hu tuñgu` na ti troñkun tanu` soluke hilu` achu` alutuñg gi kanton tasi gi fina` kantit. Sige hu rikonose `nai hu lie` fina` alamle dispues de ha dobla i amku` `nos kuantos ramas.

Ginen i chagu` kulan ti nigas sa` chomchum `nai ha tatiye dineblan i amku`. Magahet na sugat troñkoña i nigas. `Nai hu diñgu dispues, mafattu gi hinasoghu na hombre i troñku siña madobla pot para u bonito ramas yan hagonña. Libianu este lokue` ta chogue gi madoblan kustumbren famaguon-ta `an sige

Europe’s dirty little art secret

By ANNE-MARIE O’CONNOR
LOS ANGELES TIMES

The outrage sparked by the clumsy handling of a Nazi-looted art trove in Munich, which was revealed this month, shows the urgent need for transparency in the art world, from museums to auction houses to private collections.

For years this rarefied world has functioned like a private club. Many institutions, especially in Europe, have kept their World War II-era provenance files discreetly locked away, or have even quietly accepted questionable art from moneyed donors. Dealers too have looked the other way—until a painting stolen during the Holocaust is suddenly, fortuitously spotted, and an auction block turns into a crime scene.

The Munich artworks—many of which were apparently either confiscated from Jewish families, bought for a fraction of their value or pulled off museum walls as “degenerate art”—are only the latest glaring example of the need for openness.

Authorities discovered the hoard in 2012 in the course of a tax investigation of Cornelius Gurlitt, 80, the son of art dealer Hildebrand Gurlitt, who amassed more than 1,400 artworks now estimated to be worth more than \$1 billion.

For nearly two years state authorities treated the Gurlitt discovery as a mere tax case, not an urgent moral matter of Nazi-era restitution. The Bavarians, and later the national government, kept the discovery under wraps to assess the artworks and to determine whether Gurlitt committed any crimes. Their secrecy violates the spirit of an international nonbinding accord governing art looted during the Nazi era.

In 1998, Germany and 43 other countries, including the U.S., signed the Washington Principles agreeing to take steps to return art stolen by the Nazis. Among the steps is publicly identifying artworks that may have been confiscated during the Nazi period and

ta kreansa.

Silensiu lau ma`lag

Man-magoddai tautau-ta ni fotten chinatsagan i tanu`. Tat ti mañuñufa` gi halom fache` guaguan na gastun lina`la`. Ya maseha esta nina` fañichichi` ni i fette na mattiru, megai umatrebi siha pumega kandet Noche Buena gi hiyuñg guma` preparasion para i finatton i Niñu Jesus na sakan.

Estague` na sensian katoliku yan kilisyanu sumen nabanidosu gi halom natibu. Ma-atotga dididi` guaguan na kobransan kandet pot minagof niha muna` bonitu lugat niha para i mas ma`gas na selebrasion. Ginen este `nai ha sosoda` dispues ginefsagan niha `nai mababa korason niha gi hilu` mattiru pot i Nanalibreta. Huñgan, silensiu i señgsoñg lau sumen malag.

Otru asuntota

Yangin ta guiguife dañkulu na fondu ginen industrian casino para Saipan, pues kase matai maguife ennau na hinassu sa` na` tata. Haya para u halom man-inbette \$40 miyon pesos dispues para un` baba i petta para otu aplikanten lisensia siha?

Dispues, dos iluña i mapropopone na aktu. Mattu lokue` gi che`chu` muron yan tramosu i esta i publikun Saipan pot dos besis `nai ma-punu` asuntun casino. Hafa gi este na disision ti komprendiyon?

Lokue`, Japon sige preparasion para u chahlau mas ke 26 miyon na tautauña man-riku dimas de u fan hanau para otu lugat. Manu dispues `nai para ta metkau casino Saipan dispues de kahulu` Macau yan Japon? Adahe na dispues man-abende hit `an poduñg dadeg?

Lamayot patte gi chinatsagan i tanu` gaige na lumalailai gi taya` planu para u esgaihon tod kinalamten iya Marianas kosake siña u adelantague`. Puru che`chu` chanseru ni mampos dañosu para i tautau siha gi señgsoñg.

Ñgai`an `nai para tafan eyag man-daña gi hilu` fitme na dinise-ha plumanuye futturon famaguon-ta? Ñgai`an `nai siña satton ta daña`e` federat pot para fuetsau tana hassugue` ni obligasioña taimanu mapluma gi kontratan i Covenant?

creating a central registry so that claimants can seek restitution. The principles draw no distinction between state and individual collections.

When the Gurlitt story broke, German officials at first resisted calls to publish the list of works. After a world outcry, they hastily listed 25, then 79 and, as of this week, 118; at least 970 are being investigated as Nazi loot. They might well learn lessons from other European countries who have suffered public relations disasters over Nazi looted art.

Austrian state museums, after years of stonewalling and secrecy, have returned a dozen masterpieces by Gustav Klimt. Among them was “Portrait of Adele Bloch-Bauer II,” which was successfully reclaimed in an eight-year battle by Los Angeles’ Maria Altmann. (It later sold for a then-record \$135 million to the Neue Galerie in New York.)

The Dutch also learned the hard way. In 2006 they returned 202 valuable works to the heir of Jacques Goudstikker, an Old Masters dealer whose works had been plundered by top Nazi Hermann Goering, and divided among Dutch museums after the war.

As the Gurlitt story made headlines, the Netherlands Museum Assn. coincidentally released the results of a four-year review of all the museums in the country—a list of 139 artworks of “dubious or definitely suspect origins.” Works by Matisse, Klee and Kandinsky are on the list, in institutions such as Amsterdam’s Stedelijk museum.

Still, very few countries have made the comprehensive effort the Dutch have. In Germany, the Bavarian state museum hasn’t publicized its provenance information, though there are works in the collection known to have changed hands during the war. In Austria, state museums are bound by new restitution laws, but not private museums. And in the Netherlands, as the museum association representative told the Associated Press, the investigation wasn’t exhaustive: More works of dubious origin, especially those held in private homes, are likely to surface.

By JOHN DELROSARIO

Special to the Saipan Tribune



John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.

Tihu tuñgu kau magnitun estrañgheru dumitetene areglau na di-naña man-ma-elihe pot para u guaha satton na inakude gi mam-pos miseraple na linala` tautau-ta siha punta pot punta. Ai, puede guaha ume`ekuñgog na biahe.

`Nai hu bisita i amiguu, husoda` guatu hana` chochochu` ga`ña yomug pitbull. Hu sañgane na paire guaddiaña piot sa` matan mala-maña yan listu. Chaka chalegña sa` megaiña i guaddia amiguña ke guiya mismu. De dios mihu!

Sige dos amiguu dumibate gi finu` Iñglis manu mofona i manog pat i chada`. Man-sinañgane ni otu amiguu na u para ensegidas sa` siñaha` umapañite `an hokog finu` Iñglis niha. Ai na grasias.

Gi hinibenta, esta lalamlam koduta ni linidoña. `Nai amku hit ya mumakalelu, esta ta hahala ni chatpagoña piot `nai lagu i sensing ya maliñgu. De dios mihu.

Ti komprendiyon haf` na guaha kinalamten hinemlu` pot para ta gacha` sien años. Ke lau haf` mohon probichoghu gi ennau na idat fuera de para bai` malalade sa estayu` estotbu?

Dispasiu mampos pinekatña i amku` ginen kuatton hospitat. Sige mafaisen haf` chinotña. Los uttimos ilegña, “Ai famaguonhu na man-linache hit todus. Hu tatkiyu!”

Even when works are listed, restitution may be more a matter of honor than law — claims are fought; statutes of limitations have passed. There is also considerable legal leeway for buyers of stolen art in Europe. They can say they bought a painting in “good faith,” without knowledge of the theft—a “don’t ask, don’t tell” approach that would seem to be undermined by the proliferation of experts and registries aimed at vetting Nazi-looted art.

Anonymity also lets collectors play hide-and-seek. The heirs of German Jewish art dealer Max Stern found three paintings that had belonged to Stern in a Cologne auction catalog this year. One seller returned a painting. Another seller withdrew the two remaining paintings, asking the auction house not to reveal his or her identity, Bloomberg reported.

The truth is this: Any work coming up for auction, offered in donation or held in state or private collections that has gaps or shifts in its ownership between 1933 and 1948 might have been stolen or obtained under duress. The records relating to such works must be made easily available, and the job of sorting through the documentation should be left to professionals who specialize in tracing Nazi art theft—and to the claimants themselves.

Of course, this kind of transparency takes real commitment to the principle of restitution. It would pry open some dirty secrets. It would mean museums and individuals losing paintings to their rightful owners, under legal and international pressures that are not as cozy as the insular art world.

But then restitution is not a rarefied, aesthetic matter. It’s not genteel. As direct heirs die and statutes of limitations pass, it is an ever more urgent matter of simple justice.

Anne-Marie O’Connor is the author of The Lady in Gold: The Extraordinary Tale of Gustav Klimt’s Masterpiece, ‘Portrait of Adele Bloch-Bauer.’ She wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Public contributions from investors

When the public land for Laolao Bay Golf Course was originally leased by then Shimizu Corp. of Japan, their “public contribution” to the NMDs was to pave the roads from the interconnection of Isa Drive and Kagman Road to all of Kagman I, Kagman II, and part of Kagman III Subdivisions. When the public land for the Coral Ocean Golf and Resort was originally leased to Suwaso Corp. of Japan, their “public contribution” for the NMDs was to pave the road from intersection of Flame Tree Drive and As Perdido Road to Koblerville Road. When

the public land for the Kingfisher Golf Course was originally leased, their “public contribution” for the NMDs was to pave the road from the Kingfisher Golf Course entrance to Esco’s Bakery on Capitol Hill. When the Nikko Hotel was constructed on private lands in San Roque, their “public contribution” was to install a public sewer line from the hotel to the Puerto Rico Sewage Treatment Plant.

Public contribution is not a new method of financing and developing public infrastructures for the benefits of all NMDs, including non-NMDs.

With the economic hardship besetting the islands, the creative way to finance public infrastructure projects such as paved roads is to leverage the NMDs’ assets, which is public lands, to the benefit of all NMDs. What is wrong with that?

Since the final stage of the bidding process for three of the last remaining “super prime beachfront properties” on Saipan is nearing completion, it’s only fitting that the Department of Public Lands negotiate good and needed NMD benefits, which now is the complete pavement of all Kagman III and Kagman IV roads and accesses.






Vicente M. Sablan

Kagman III, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Thundershowers	▲86 ▼78
Palau	Showers	▲86 ▼76
Yap	Showers	▲88 ▼76
Chuuk	Showers	▲85 ▼79
Pohnpei	Showers	▲87 ▼76
Kosrae	Showers	▲87 ▼76
Majuro	Showers	▲85 ▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲72 ▼65
Beijing	Sunny	▲56 ▼27
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲74 ▼62
Honolulu	Showers	▲81 ▼69
London	Mostly Cloudy	▲42 ▼38
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲73 ▼51
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲84 ▼77
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲85 ▼58
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲79 ▼61
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲47 ▼35
Osaka	Sunny	▲58 ▼46
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲38 ▼30
Pusan	Sunny	▲56 ▼41
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲59 ▼41
Salem	Showers	▲47 ▼33
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲64 ▼49
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲52 ▼32
Tokyo	Sunny	▲60 ▼44
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲51 ▼35

Tides

Saipan Harbor				
1:29 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet	
8:24 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet	
1:48 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet	
6:54 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet	

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2013

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line extends southwestward from near Minami Tori Shima to beyond 130E at 17N. Low clouds, scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found northwest of this boundary to beyond 25N. A surface trough stretching southwestward from 16N144E to 7N139E is triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over and west of the Marianas within 130 miles of a line from 14N133E to 13N141E to 16N145E. Low-level convergence is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms mainly south of Kosrae and the Marshall Islands within 170 miles of a line from 2N157E to 7N180. Scattered showers are located north of Pohnpei within 50 miles of a line from 11N155E to 7N160E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:28 AM	5:45 PM
Wednesday	6:29 AM	5:45 PM
Thursday	6:29 AM	5:46 PM
Friday	6:30AM	5:46 PM
Saturday	6:30AM	5:46 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:21 AM	6:05 PM
Wednesday	7:23 AM	7:07 PM
Thursday	8:24 AM	8:11 PM
Friday	9:21 AM	9:13 PM
Saturday	10:14 AM	10:14 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 2, 2013

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)	GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN
UA5070 4:15am 5:05am Daily	UA5069 2:45am 3:35am Daily
UA5068 8:40am 9:30am Daily	UA5071 7:15am 8:05am Daily
UA5038 2:20pm 3:10pm 2, 3, 6	UA5039 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7
UA5078 6:05pm 6:55pm Daily	UA5077 4:45pm 5:35pm Daily
UA5072 9:50pm 10:40pm Daily	UA5079 8:30pm 9:20pm Daily
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)	GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)
UA5039 1:35pm 2:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7	UA5038 12:10pm 12:45pm 2, 3, 6
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)	ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN
UA5039 2:40pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7	UA5038 1:15pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6
SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)	PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN
DL287 6:05am 11:25pm 2, 6 via NRT	DL298 4:35am 3:00pm 3, 7 via NRT
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN
DL287 6:05am 8:40am 1, 2, 4, 5, 6	DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily
DL297 4:30pm 7:20pm Daily	DL288 8:55pm 1:30am+1 1, 3, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN
OZ608 3:10am 6:20am 1, 4, 5, 7	OZ607 9:00pm 1:50am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN
OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1	D2101 8:30am 2:00pm 3
D2102 2:20am 5:50am 3	OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm Daily
OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	D2103 7:30pm 1:00am+1 6
OZ6063 3:30am 7:20am 4, 7	OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7
D2104 2:00pm 5:30pm 6	OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily	OZ6053 9:10pm 2:30am+1 3, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN
3U8648 6:10am 8:40am 1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647 10:40pm 5:00am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)	BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN
MU764 4:10am 8:00am 1, 5	MU763 7:55pm 3:10am+1 4, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)	GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN
3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6	3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)	MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN
OZ606/701 2:10am 11:15am 1 via ICN	OZ704/603 12:10am 2:20pm Daily
OZ606/701 2:40am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	PR110/UA5072 7:35am 5:35pm 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/191 4:15am 9:05am 3, 6 via GUM	DL172/288 7:40am 1:30am+1 1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
DL287/473 6:05am 10:30pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT	UA190/5079 10:00am 5:35pm 3, 6 via GUM
UA5068/PR111 8:40am 4:45pm 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN
UA5038/183 2:20pm 9:30pm 2 via GUM	OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA5078/183 6:05pm 9:50pm 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/5071 10:55pm 8:05am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN	UA184/5071 11:59pm 8:05am+1 2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)	HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN
OZ606/721 2:10am 11:50am 1 via ICN	OZ746/603 12:30am 2:20pm Daily via ICN
OZ606/721 2:40am 11:50am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN
UA5068/179 8:40am 10:35pm 1, 5 via GUM	OZ724/605 1:50pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA5038/179 2:20pm 10:35pm 3, 6 via GUM	UA180/5071 11:10pm 8:05am+1 1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
OZ604/749 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN	

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air; D: Dynamic Airways.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
FRE 400	17:50	18:20	Daily	Tinian-Saipan			
Saipan-Rota				FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily				



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

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- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Marines enjoy Thanksgiving meal on Tinian

By **LANCE CPL. ANTONIO RUBIO**
MARINE CORPS AIR STATION IWAKUNI

TINIAN, Northern Mariana Islands—There were no decorations, turkeys or the aroma of pumpkin pie to be found as the Marines on Tinian awoke Thanksgiving morning to work just like any other day.

That is until the USO provided more than 58 boxes of food to service members currently participating in Exercise Forager Fury II Nov. 28 at Tinian's North Field to raise the morale of service members.

FF II is a joint exercise designed to employ and assess combat power generation in a

deployed and austere environment. Service members are with 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

"The USO brought [feeling of home] to Tinian," said Navy Lt. Alexander Jung Cho, a chaplain with Marine Wing Support Squadron 171, Marine Aircraft Group 12, 1st MAF, III MEF. "Eating turkey, ham, mashed potatoes, and gravy is something we didn't expect to see here."

Food service specialist Marines were on hand to serve the Thanksgiving meal to the service members.

"The morale of the Marines was unbelievable," said Lance Cpl. Mark Edwards, a food



LANCE CPL. ANTONIO J. RUBIO

Marines serve food for Thanksgiving Nov. 28 at Tinian's North Field during exercise Forager Fury II. The United Services Organization provided more than 58 boxes of food to Tinian and Guam to help raise the morale of service members.

service specialist with MWSS-171. "All of the Marines were smiling in line anxiously waiting for their food. It made me and the other cooks very excited to serve this particular meal. We consider ourselves privileged to be able to serve this food to the Marines because we know it means a lot to them."

Food service specialists were not the only Marines

serving dinner as members of the senior leadership also served their Marines traditional holiday feasts.

"I get to serve the best part of the meal, the pumpkin pie, which makes Thanksgiving, Thanksgiving," said Chief Warrant Officer Steven Taynton, the embark officer in charge with MWSS-171. "Serving Marines a Thanksgiving meal is fantas-

tic. You get to see everybody smile when they get in line and they're like 'everything is wonderful and delicious.' The Marines have been working hard and serving them is a way to give back to them."

Because Thanksgiving is such a family-oriented holiday, it's very difficult, but with turkey and ham filling the bellies of the Marines, operations in Tinian

will continue with efficiency seeing as the Marines' morale is sky high, according to Cho.

"Being on an exercise, away from their families and homes is tough, but doing it during a holiday is even tougher," said Cho. "We're all in Tinian and this meal gives Marines a feeling of home. They're with their sections, which to them is family, and it definitely raises morale."



LANCE CPL. ANTONIO J. RUBIO

Service members unload food for Thanksgiving Nov. 28 at Tinian's International Airport and Tinian's North Field during Exercise Forager Fury II. The USO provided more than 58 boxes of food to service members on Tinian and Guam to help raise morale.

By **LANCE CPL. ANTONIO RUBIO**
MARINE CORPS AIR STATION IWAKUNI

TINIAN, Northern Mariana Islands—Expeditionary airfield system technicians installed two M-31 Marine Corps expeditionary arresting gear systems Nov. 22 at Tinian's West Field in preparation for Exercise Forager Fury II.

The arresting gear is a dynamic piece of equipment critical to FF II, which is a joint exercise designed to employ and assess combat power generation in a deployed and austere environment. The Marines

are with Marine Wing Support Squadron 171, Marine Aircraft Group 12, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

"It is capable of stopping a fully loaded F-18 or any tail-hooked equipped aircraft," said Staff Sgt. Joaquin Moreno, the expeditionary airfield staff non-commissioned officer in charge with MWSS-171.

The M-31 is made of two trailers and is set in place with more than 50 anchors per trail-

er. The arresting gear works by combining two hydrodynamic breaking action arresters engines anchored to the surface, positioned directly across from each other on the runway connected by a cable.

Before the M-31 is set up, surveyors lined up the placement for the arresting gear along the runway.

"We absolutely need the surveyors," said Moreno. "They're crucial to let us know that our requirements for the elevation

of our trailers in relation to each other are met. Without them, we cannot operate."

After the trailers were set, Marines placed stick placement templates and marked spots on the ground near the trailer to place anchors. Next, they tested the hardness of the ground before the placement of the anchors. The anchors were then inserted into place and connected to each trailer.

"We only have a certain

amount of tolerance amongst twisting and tightening down between each gear," said Lance Cpl. Justin Self, an expeditionary airfield system technician with MWSS-171. "After we found the proper measurements, we set up the gear in its designated location using a proper layout tool based out of our manual."

The arresting gear works when an aircraft passes over the cable, activating it which causing it to rapidly decelerate on

short landing strips, according to Moreno.

For some of the expedition airfield system technicians this was their first time setting up the arresting gear in a field environment.

"I've learned the importance of proper (personal protective equipment) and how safety is paramount on and off the airfield," said Pfc. Chase Leake is an expeditionary airfield system technician with MWSS-171. "This is definitely a hands-on experience and I'm excited to be here doing training I don't normally get the chance to do."



LANCE CPL. ANTONIO J. RUBIO

Marines use a jackhammer to place an anchor for an M-31 Marine Corps expeditionary arresting gear system Nov. 22 at Tinian's West Field during Exercise Forager Fury II. The arresting gear is a dynamic piece of equipment critical to FF II, which is a joint exercise designed to employ and assess combat power generation in a deployed and austere environment.



LANCE CPL. ANTONIO J. RUBIO

Lance Cpl. Stephanie Jordi, left, uses a jackhammer to place an anchor for an M-31 Marine Corps Expeditionary arresting gear system Nov. 22 at Tinian's West Field during Exercise Forager Fury II.

Service members host 2nd Hafa Adai 5K Run on Tinian



Participants in the 2nd Tinian Hafa Adai 5K run pose for a photo before jumping in the waters of Taga Beach after the run Nov. 30.

CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK

By CPL. JOSEPH KARWICK
MARINE CORPS AIR STATION IWAKUNI

TINIAN, Northern Mariana Islands—Marines and sailors hosted more than a 120 runners in the 2nd Tinian Hafa Adai 5K Run on Tinian Nov. 30, to foster a stronger relationship with the people of Tinian and the service members.

The service members currently on Tinian participating in Exercise Forager Fury II took a break from their daily routine to go on a run with the local community.

FF II is a joint exercise designed to employ and assess combat power generation in a deployed and austere environment.

"Today, I ran a 5K and crossed the finish line first with a time of 19 minutes, 10 seconds, and beat the gentlemen right behind me by a second," said Lance Cpl. John E. Caulfield, a utilities combat engineer with Marine Wing Support Squadron 171, Marine Aircraft Group 12, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III



Participants in the 2nd Tinian Hafa Adai 5 kilometer run take off sprinting Nov. 30, after the start buzzer rang.

CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK

Marine Expeditionary Force. "I didn't come out here expecting to run as fast as I did, but when I saw those in front of me take off I knew I had to go for it."

Service members were not the only ones running in the event; many local residents came out to join the fun as well.

"Running with the [com-

munity members] was a great experience," said Caulfield. "I saw children about 6 years old running next to me and even I saw a Marine give over one of the shirts he bought to one of the children who was running next to him."

The first to cross the finish line from Tinian was Hermes

Ramos, 17, who finished with a time of 22 minutes, 30 seconds.

"It was really cool running next to the Marines," said Ramos. "The way they were joking around before the start and as soon as the buzzer went off they all just took off. I did not think I could run that far that fast. I definitely didn't expect to be the first

one from Tinian to finish."

Having the Marines come to Tinian gives people a chance to ask the Marines about their jobs and life in the Marine Corps to help them decide if they want to serve in the military, according to Ramos.

For a few Marines, this event marked the second time they

have ran in the Hafa Adai 5K, as they took part during Forager Fury 2012.

"This is my second time doing this," said 1st Lt. Alex Cloninger, a motor transportation officer with MWSS-171. "We had great help from the police department who blocked off the roads when we needed them too and also guiding the runners on the course."

"The Navy corpsman even set up water stations for anyone who needed it at several points throughout the course."

The run would not of been successful without the help of Marine, sailor and local volunteers, according to Cloninger.

When the all runners cleared the finish line, the participants taking pictures of one another as keepsakes and headed down to the beach to cool off.

"So many Marines, sailors and local residents came out and helped with a very motivating run," said Cloninger. "This is the second time we have done this and it keeps getting better and better."

USS Freedom visits Guam while transiting Pacific

SANTA RITA, Guam—The littoral combat ship USS *Freedom* arrived in Guam, the furthest western U.S. territory, on Nov. 29 as part of her return transit across the Pacific Ocean.

While the crew will have time to rest, relax and reset, *Freedom* will receive fuel and

supplies for the next underway period as the ship wraps up a maiden overseas deployment to Southeast Asia that began last March.

Over the past several months, *Freedom* has worked with many regional navies that operate comparable-sized ships

during a series of port visits, exercises, and exchanges. These engagements directly support the Asia-Pacific rebalance and further reinforced cooperation and interoperability among the Navy's partners and allies throughout Southeast Asia.

Prior to arriving in Guam,

Freedom conducted a passing exercise with the Bangladesh navy ship BNS *Somudro Joy*, supported humanitarian assistance and disaster relief efforts in the Philippines, as part of Operation Damayan, and conducted a port call in Muara, Brunei.

USS *Freedom*'s first rotational deployment to Southeast Asia began March 1, when the ship departed San Diego and commenced a Pacific Ocean transit that included port visits in Hawaii, Guam and Manila. *Freedom* used Singapore as a logistics and maintenance hub between April 18 and Nov. 16, during which she participated in the International Maritime De-

fence Exhibition, three phases of the bilateral naval exercise Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training with Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei, and the multinational exercise South-east Asia Cooperation and Training. During port visits, *Freedom* hosted thousands visitors from throughout Southeast Asia. (**Logistics Group Western Pacific Public Affairs**)

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This photo of part of the HealthCare.gov website is photographed in Washington, on Nov. 29, 2013.

Officials: Worst tech glitches now over for Healthcare.gov

WASHINGTON (AP)—The worst of the online glitches, crashes and delays may be over for the problem-plagued government health care website, the Department of Health and Human Services said Sunday.

But that doesn't mean HealthCare.gov is ready for a clean bill of health.

Officials acknowledged more work remains on the website that included hundreds of software bugs, inadequate equipment and inefficient management for its national debut two months ago. Federal workers and private contractors have undertaken an intense reworking of the system, but the White House's chief troubleshooter cautioned some users could still encounter trouble.

"The bottom line—HealthCare.gov on Dec. 1 is night and day from where it was on Oct. 1," Jeff Zients told reporters.

More than 50,000 people can log on to the website at one time and more than 800,000 people will be able to shop for insurance coverage each day, the government estimated in

a report released Sunday. If true, it's a dramatic improvement from the system's first weeks, when frustrated buyers watched their computer screen freeze, the website crash and error messages multiply.

The figures—which could not be independently verified—suggest millions of Americans could turn to their laptops to shop for and buy insurance policies by the Dec. 23 deadline.

"There's not really any way to verify from the outside that the vast majority of people who want to enroll can now do so, but we'll find out at least anecdotally over the coming days if the system can handle the traffic and provide a smooth experience for people trying to sign up," said Larry Levitt, a senior adviser at the Kaiser Family Foundation.

But, he added, HealthCare.gov is clearly working better than when it first went online. Its challenge now is to convince users who were frustrated during their first visit to give it another chance.

Politically, a fixed website could also offer a fresh start for President Barack Obama and his fellow Democrats after a wave of bad publicity surrounding the president's chief domestic achievement.

"This website is technology. It's going to get better. It's already better today," said Rep. Keith Ellison, a Minnesota Democrat who is a co-chairman of the liberal Congressional Progressive Caucus. "And we're only going to be working out more kinks as we go forward."

HealthCare.gov was envisioned as the principal place for people in 36 states to buy insurance under Obama's health care law. But its first few weeks were an embarrassment for the administration and its allies.

Obama set Saturday as the deadline to fix several significant problems and the administration organized a conference call with reporters Sunday morning to boast that 400 technical problems had been resolved. Officials, however, declined to say how many items remain on the to-do list.

Record crowds over weekend, but spending down

NEW YORK (AP)—Did stores shoot themselves in the foot?

Target, Macy's and other retailers offered holiday discounts in early November and opened stores on Thanksgiving Day. It was an effort to attract shoppers before Black Friday, the day after Thanksgiving that traditionally kicks off the holiday shopping season.

Those tactics drew bigger crowds, but failed to motivate Americans to spend.

A record 141 million people are expected to shop in stores and online over the four-day Thanksgiving weekend that ends Sunday, up from last year's 137 million, according to the results of a survey

of nearly 4,500 shoppers conducted for The National Retail Federation.

But total spending is expected to fall for the first time ever since the trade group began tracking it in 2006, according to the survey that was released on Sunday. Over the four days, spending fell an estimated 2.9 percent to \$57.4 billion.

Shoppers, on average, are expected to spend \$407.02 during the four days, down 3.9 percent from last year. That would be the first decline since the 2009 holiday shopping season when the economy was just coming out of the recession.

The survey underscores the challenges stores have faced

since the recession began in late 2007. Retailers had to offer deep discounts to get people to shop during the downturn, but Americans still expect those "70 percent off" signs now during the uneven economic recovery.

Stores may have only exacerbated that expectation this year. By offering bargains earlier in the season, it seems they've created a vicious cycle in which they'll need to constantly offer bigger sales to get people to spend. That's because shoppers who took advantage of "holiday" deals before Thanksgiving may have deal fatigue and are cautious about buying anything else unless it's heavily discounted.

Nation

Probe seeks cause of fatal New York City train crash

NEW YORK (AP)—Federal authorities were beginning an exhaustive investigation into what caused a New York City commuter train rounding a riverside curve to derail, killing four people and injuring more than 60 others, as officials warned the 26,000 weekday riders on the affected line of the nation's second-biggest commuter railroad to brace for crowded trains during the morning commute.

The National Transportation Safety Board said its investigators could spend up to 10 days probing all aspects of the early Sunday morning accident on Metro-North that toppled seven cars—carrying roughly 150 passengers—and the locomotive, leaving the lead car only

inches from the water at a bend in the Bronx where the Hudson and Harlem rivers meet.

The NTSB said it would consider whether excessive speed, mechanical problems or human error played a role in the crash.

It was the latest accident in a troubled year for Metro-North, which had never experienced passenger death in an accident in its 31-year history.

Late Sunday night, the Metropolitan Transit Authority, which oversees Metro-North, was preparing to begin using cranes to upright some of the toppled cars on the slight chance anyone might still be underneath.

Joel Zaritsky, who was dozing as he traveled to a dental convention aboard the train, woke up to feel his car over-

turning several times.

"Then I saw the gravel coming at me, and I heard people screaming," he told The Associated Press, holding his bloody right hand. "There was smoke everywhere and debris. People were thrown to the other side of the train."

The MTA said it would provide shuttle buses Monday morning to ferry passengers between stops and to another rail line, but it urged riders who could work from home to do so.

NTSB board member Earl Weener said at a press conference Sunday the agency had just begun its investigation and hadn't yet spoken to the train's conductor, who was among the injured. His name was not released.

NTSB officials examine Alaska crash wreckage



This image provided Saturday Nov. 30, 2013, courtesy of Alaska State Troopers shows the wreckage of a plane that crashed Friday near St. Marys, Alaska.

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)—Federal investigators on Sunday started documenting the wreckage of a plane crash in remote southwest Alaska that killed four people and injured six Friday night.

A break in weather conditions allowed two investigators—from the National Transportation Safety Board and the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration—on Sunday to reach the scene where a single-engine aircraft went down near the village of Saint Marys, said Clint Johnson, the chief of the NTSB's Alaska regional office.

"The goal is to document the wreckage at the accident site to the best of their ability, and be able to talk to witnesses," Johnson said Sunday afternoon.

He added that "it's way too early to draw any conclusions" about what caused the accident.

Investigators will be at the site for at least a day, possibly two, collecting evidence and interviewing witnesses, Johnson said. Another NTSB investigator in Anchorage also is hoping to interview survivors of the crash, he said.

The Hageland Aviation Cessna 208 crashed at around 6:30

p.m. Friday four miles from Saint Marys. It left Bethel on a scheduled flight for Mountain Village and eventually Saint Marys but never reached Mountain Village.

The airplane would have been flying in freezing rain with a mile of visibility and a 300-foot ceiling, a spokeswoman for the Alaska State Troopers has said.

Johnson said the plane was equipped with an advanced electronic locator transmitter that went off on impact and sent a satellite signal with GPS coordinates alerting officials to the accident.

Man cited after tossing cash at Mall of America

BLOOMINGTON, Minn. (AP)—A 29-year-old Minnesota man who says he was trying to spread holiday cheer by tossing 1,000 dollar bills over an upper floor railing at the Mall of America has been cited for disorderly conduct.

Serge Vorobyov, of Apple Valley, admitted throwing his "last \$1,000" from the fourth floor on Friday as a choir performed "Let it Snow." Vorobyov said he also

kept tossing cash as he continued down the escalator.

Vorobyov said he's going through a divorce, lost his car hauling business and hoped the positivity of throwing the money would come back to him.

"I wanted to do some sort of pay it forward kind of thing," Vorobyov said Sunday.

He invited his estranged wife to try to win her back but she didn't show up, he said.

Instead, Vorobyov was cited by Bloomington police and released at the scene. He also was ordered not to go into the mall for a year.

Vorobyov had stamped the bills with his YouTube address and on his Facebook page he called the event a publicity stunt. When asked why he wanted the publicity, he said he wanted his cat back from his estranged wife.

Asia

Orphans speak of Haiyan's horrors



AP

In this Nov. 21, 2013 photo, Shylyny Therese Negru, 15, holds her youngest brother, Rainier Aaron Dacuno, 3, as they sit in a relative's home in the town of Burauen, the Philippines.

TACLOBAN, Philippines (AP)—The teenager with unruly hair in a ponytail wipes tears from her eyes as she holds her feverish 3-year-old brother, who clings to her and lets out a sob of his own now and then. They have been inseparable ever since they lost their parents to Typhoon Haiyan's tsunami-like storm surge.

"The water was so strong. Also the wind and the rain," 15-year-old Shylyny Therese Negru said. "Our house was cut into two."

She and her three surviving brothers, ages 3, 6 and 12, are among an unknown number of children in the eastern Philippines who lost their parents to the massive Nov. 8 storm. Zafarin Chowdry, a spokeswoman for UNICEF, said the agency is helping to rapidly trace the families of affected children and to connect them with relatives.

The death toll from Haiyan, one of the strongest typhoons on record, has risen to 5,560 with 1,757 others missing, officials said Thursday. The

United Nations said at least 14 million people have been affected, including 1.8 million displaced children.

The storm almost completely flattened the seaside neighborhood where Shylyny's family lived in Tacloban, a coastal city devastated by the typhoon. She and her brothers now live with their mother's aunt in Burauen, a farming town about 40 kilometers from Tacloban. Friends gave them the clothes they now wear.

"It doesn't matter if we lose everything, as long as we can have our parents here," said Shylyny, a high school student who dreams of becoming an accountant or a journalist. She accepts that her parents are dead; she only wishes to find their bodies, and the body of a brother who did not survive.

Shylyny said she climbed to the ceiling of the family's two-story home when the water suddenly rose. She and her brothers clutched wires and anything they could hold on to.

"The last time I looked, my

mother was just beside me, but when I looked again she was gone," she sobbed.

Her 12-year-old brother, Richard Chris Negru, held on to their mother's hand, but she could not move because her legs were pinned under debris.

He said she told him to hold on to his younger brothers, to take care of his siblings and to be a good boy. Then she let go, and was swallowed by the rising water.

The children's father was able to carry the two younger boys to the ceiling, but he, too, disappeared in the water soon after. Richard Chris took the two boys and they managed to reach a neighbor's rooftop.

Shylyny tried to save her 10-year-old brother, Richard Lawrence Dacuno, who was mentally disabled. She held him but struggled as the water rose, and when she was hit by debris she lost her grip.

"I thought I would not survive because I really did not know how to swim and I was already feeling weak," she said.

proceed" with that, she said. "We don't know how to make it happen. Right now we don't see any way to resolve the problem under the constitution," she said in the brief 12-minute news conference.

"If there is any way I can restore peace I am willing to do it. The government does not have to hold on to power we only want peace."

The protests have renewed fears of prolonged instability in one of Southeast Asia's biggest economies and come just ahead of the peak holiday tourist season.

After a weekend of chaos in pockets of Bangkok, protesters regrouped outside the heavily barricaded prime minister's office compound Monday and re-

peatedly clashed with the police who fired tear gas, water cannons and rubber bullets.

Emboldened by their leader's vow to topple Yingluck by Wednesday, they threw rocks at police and tore away sections of barbed wire and concrete barriers. At least three people were killed and 103 injured in skirmishes over the weekend.

The protesters, who are mostly middle-class Bangkok supporters of the opposition Democrat Party, want to get rid of Yingluck, claiming she is a proxy for her brother, former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra. He was deposed in a 2006 military coup but remains central to Thailand's political crisis, and is a focal point for the protesters' hatred.

World

Syrian aircraft kill 50 in rebel town

BEIRUT (AP)—Syrian government helicopters dropped barrels full of explosives on a rebel-held town near the northern city of Aleppo, killing at least 50 people in two separate attacks over the weekend, activists said Sunday.

The shelling Sunday hit near a bakery in the town of al-Bab, located east of Aleppo, killing at least 24 people, said Rami Abdurrahman of the British-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights and Akram al-Halabi, a rebel spokesman based in nearby in Aleppo.

The Observatory obtains its information from a network of activists on the ground. Syrian state media said government forces killed "terrorists," which is how they describe armed rebels fighting against President Bashar Assad's rule.

The attack followed a similar bombing on Saturday, when army helicopters targeted a rebel compound in al-Bab, but missed their target and hit a market, killing 26

people, Abdurrahman said.

The army used barrel bombs in both attacks, which contain hundreds of pounds (kilograms) of explosives.

Assad's forces have relied heavily on air power in the last year to regain control of opposition-held territory, particularly in the north and along the border with Turkey. Rebels also control parts of Aleppo, Syria's largest city and its commercial center.

Activists say barrel-bomb airstrikes often precede government ground offensives. Assad's troops may be mounting a major operation to recapture territory and bolster its position ahead of peace talks planned for January in Geneva.

Assad's forces also have been fighting in central Syria's rugged Qalamoun region near the Lebanese border to cut off rebel supply routes and stem the flow of incoming fighters.

On Sunday, the Observatory said government forces fought

rebels, including members of the al-Qaida-linked Jabhat al-Nusra, inside the predominantly Christian town of Maaloula near Damascus.

Maaloula lies on the edge of Qalamoun, about 60 kilometers (40 miles) northeast of the capital. The town had been firmly in the government's grip, but is surrounded by rebel-held territory.

It is near Nabek, where there have been clashes for the past three days.

Nabek is located along a key highway connecting Damascus with Homs, Syria's third largest city. Clearing towns and villages of rebels along the highway would help the government regain control of its main overland supply route.

Military aircraft targeted Nabek on Sunday, just hours after a suicide bomber detonated an explosives-laden car near a police station in the town, killing five members of the security forces, the Observatory said.

UN in Iraq worried about uptick in bodies found

BAGHDAD (AP)—The number of Iraqis slain "execution-style" surged last month, the U.N. said Sunday, raising fears of a return of the death squads that killed thousands during the darkest days of sectarian violence that followed the U.S.-led invasion.

The increase in targeted killings comes even though the U.N. reported that the overall death toll for November dropped to 659, compared with 979 in October. More than 8,000 people have been killed since the start of the year.

In an example of other dangers facing Iraqis, three bombs tore through the funeral procession of the son of an anti-al-Qaida Sunni tribal chief north-

east of Baghdad, the deadliest in a wave of attacks that killed 17 people Sunday, Iraqi officials said.

"It seems that history is always repeating itself in Iraq," said Qassim Haider, a Shiite owner of a menswear shop in eastern Baghdad. He said he has stopped accepting invitations to visit friends in mainly Sunni neighborhoods due to fears of violence.

Widespread chaos nearly tore the country apart following the 2003 U.S.-led invasion that ousted Saddam Hussein. The violence ebbed in 2008 after a series of U.S.-Iraqi military offensives, a Shiite militia cease-fire and a Sunni revolt against al-Qaida in Iraq, but that trend was reversed

after a deadly April 23 crackdown by security forces on a northern Sunni protest camp.

Iraqis have grown used to random explosions, but the recent discoveries of bullet-riddled bodies have many worried about a long-feared resumption of all-out warfare between Shiite and Sunni factions.

Mazin Sabeeh, a Sunni government employee from northern Baghdad, said he has started avoiding Shiite neighborhoods to avoid being captured and killed by militiamen.

"Apparently, some people from the other sect are still determined to take revenge upon Sunnis," he said. "With the current security vacuum and deterioration, they think it is the time to settle old scores."

WORLD BRIEFS

Anti-gov't mass rally in Ukraine turns violent

KIEV, Ukraine (AP)—A protest by about 300,000 Ukrainians angered by their government's decision to freeze integration with the West turned violent Sunday, when a group of demonstrators besieged the president's office and police drove them back with truncheons, tear gas and flash grenades. Dozens of people were injured. The mass rally in central Kiev defied a government ban on protests on Independence Square, in the biggest show of anger over President Viktor Yanukovich's refusal to sign a political and economic agreement with the European Union.

Uganda troops kill LRA rebels in CAR

KAMPALA, Uganda (AP)—A senior commander of the Lord's Resistance Army and 13 of his rebel fighters have been killed in Central African Republic, a Ugandan government official said Sunday. Col. Samuel Kangul, believed

to be the fourth in command of the Lord's Resistance Army, or LRA, was killed by Ugandan forces Thursday, using intelligence gathered by United States advisers, said Ugandan Army Deputy Spokesman Maj. Robert Ngabirano. About 100 U.S. Special Forces experts are helping African troops to hunt down LRA leader Joseph Kony, who is wanted by the International Criminal Court for war crimes and crimes against humanity.

7 killed in Chinese-run factory in Italy

MILAN (AP)—A fire early Sunday swept through an illegal, makeshift dormitory in a Chinese-run garment factory in Tuscany, killing seven, firefighters said. The blaze, which partially collapsed the factory's roof, broke out in a loft where 11 people were sleeping, said fire inspector Stefano Giannelli. The cause was under investigation. Two people remained hospitalized, while two were treated and released, Giannelli said.

Focus

TIAOHUASHAN Village, China (AP)—Mu Zhengwu scanned the tiny room of his childhood, part of a wood home built over a shed where cows once sent earthy odors through the floorboards. Wood planks were missing from a bare bed frame. The walls were shedding a kind of wallpaper made from pages of school notebooks.

Seven Chinese characters, written in bold brush strokes, remained intact above a dusty desk: “The fragrance of winter blossoms comes from bitter chills.”

“These words have prodded me along and kept me going,” Mu said on a recent visit to his family’s home in Tiaohuashan village. The words accompanied him on his arduous journey from Guizhou, China’s most impoverished province, to a prestigious Beijing law school.

At first glance, the bespectacled 25-year-old might look like proof that China’s education remains a powerful social equalizer.

But a closer examination of Mu’s path shows the field of education heavily tilted away from rural students and toward the wealthy urban elite, part of the widening economic and social inequalities in modern, rapidly growing China. Supposedly socialist, China has compulsory education through grade 9 but not without costs for rural families. Some endure heart-breaking sacrifice to educate their children.

Mu’s own family was so poor that his equally bright older brother had to drop out from sixth grade so Mu could stay in class.

He studied extra hard—sometimes by streetlamp—but his advance was hamstrung by a system that spends several times more per student in Beijing than in Tiaohuashan. His chances of entering a top-notch university were further handicapped by quotas that overwhelmingly favor big-city students.

Mu is the only person from his village ever to make it to graduate school. Only about 3 percent of impoverished rural students in China even make it as far as college, a Stanford University study estimates. About 84 percent of high school students in the thriving city of Shanghai advance to colleges, according to Shanghai’s government.

China’s top education officials acknowledge inequities and pledge to narrow the gaps by extending more financial resources to rural teachers and students. Some top universities suggest they will give rural students a break in test scores for admissions.

“Countless people have fallen on this road,” Mu said. “It’s a miracle that I even attended middle school.”

■ ■ ■ ■ ■
The third of three sons, Mu was born in 1988 in the mountainous southern province of Guizhou, for years China’s poorest with per-capita GDP of \$3,100 in 2012.

He grew up in Tiaohuashan, where hay and manure litter narrow alleyways, water buffaloes bathe in muddy creeks and locals offer incense to earth deities to pray for harvests. His father supplemented farming with a scrap-metal business. His mother was illiterate but had an unwavering belief in education. Their home was built above the stable to protect valuable animals from theft.

As a boy, Mu cut hay and herded cows. He didn’t start school until age 7, and his 9-year-old brother repeated the first grade to join him in class. Three years later, the Mu brothers moved to a larger school with children from several villages.

Discipline was lax. Boys began to drink, smoke and chase girls at age 10, Mu and his friends recalled. Boys pried the legs off classroom benches to brandish in a scuffle. “The teachers could not control us,” Mu said.

Per-student funding in Mu’s province in 1998, when he was in fourth grade, was \$34 a year, compared with \$211 for Beijing. Spending has since increased, but the gap remains. In 2011, per-student funding was \$552 in Guizhou and \$2,985 in Beijing, ac-

ashamed to borrow money, so his mother searched for and found a creditor willing to lend 300 yuan (about \$50) at 2 percent monthly interest for Mu’s annual school fee.

He enrolled at the No. 9 Middle School on the outskirts of the city of Anshun in 2001. He boarded there, living on steamed rice and pickled vegetables with a weekly budget of 10 yuan (\$1.50). Malnourished, Mu came down with tuberculosis after one semester. With burning lungs, he returned home

day of high school, when his mother accompanied him to register dressed in an embroidered cotton dress with a waist sash—a traditional costume out of fashion for decades.

He was behind urban classmates in his studies as well. Mu moved off campus so he could avoid its mandatory power turnoff and study a few extra hours per night. “Compared to city students, we must work twice or three times harder,” said Mu, who had to help with farm work on weekends.

his own interrupted schooling.

“I blamed my parents. Why did they have a third child when it was enough for them to have two?” Bending over, he wept silently for a while.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■

Mu Zhengwu remained diligent at Anshun No. 2. In 2008, he scored 605 in the “gaokao” college entrance exam, far above the 566-point requirement for China’s tier-one universities. He was accepted by Chongqing’s prestigious Southwest University of Political Science and Law. Had he been a Beijing student, he would have landed in the even-more-prestigious Tsinghua or Peking universities.

His annual expenses in Chongqing were about 15,000 yuan (\$2,450). Mu took out student loans. His parents borrowed money from relatives and even fibbed to the government to take out a small agri-business loan.

He still had less money than his urban peers, and it took time to adjust to campus life.

“By the end of the freshman year, everyone in my class had a laptop computer, except me and another rural student,” Mu said. “The gap between the rich and the poor was so shocking that you naturally started to hate the rich.”

The percentage of rural students in college is growing because China has encouraged the growth of independent and polytechnic colleges and lowered the threshold for admission. But scholars say students in these new schools pay twice or three times more in tuition, receive inferior education and end up with less-competitive diplomas.

The top schools still overwhelmingly favor local, urban students. At Shanghai’s Fudan University, for every 10,000 eligible applicants from Shanghai, the school chose 117. For every 10,000 applicants nationally, the school chose two, according to a study by legal scholar Zhang Qianfan.

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Mu’s greatest success came last year, when he was admitted into the graduate law program at Beijing Institute of Technology. Mu received full state funding, and his family has begun to repay debts.

Mu helped by sending home 2,500 yuan (about \$400) from a summer teaching gig. During a visit home, though, his 53-year-old father chided him for that.

“I don’t want him to make money,” Mu Qingdeng said. The elder Mu sat on a sofa covered with a green-and-yellow checkered John Deere blanket, two cigarettes held stored between leathery fingers. His skin was tanned and his nails bruised from decades of hard labor, in contrast to his youngest son’s fair skin and scholarly look.

“He should study hard and go overseas,” the father said. “I want him to create happiness for mankind.”

His mother—with a grandchild strapped to her back—chopped vegetables and mixed sauces for a family dinner. With a guest from faraway, the dinner had drawn neighbors and everyone in the family.

Everyone except Mu Zhengwen, still living and working in Hangzhou with his wife.

“I owe it to my second son,” the father said. Mu Zhengwu said he hopes one day to give his brother the education he sacrificed.

But that’s not going to happen. “It is impossible, and I don’t want it either,” the second brother said. “I will do my best to make money for my 2-year-old boy so he would get an education. I will work every day that I can.”



In this photo taken Tuesday, July 16, 2013, Mu Zhengwu, center, gathers his family for a group photo that includes his oldest brother, Mu Hongzhong, background center; their father, Mu Qingdeng, front right; and mother, Chai Guixian, left seated, at their rural home in Anshun in southern China’s Guizhou province.

AP

Rural China to law school is journey of inequality

cording to Education Ministry figures.

In 2001, the Mu family’s luck went sour. They lost much of their livestock, and money from some scrap-metal deals was stolen. Paying tuition—about 150 yuan (about \$25) per semester—for all three boys became out of the question.

The oldest son, then in eighth grade, already had lost interest in studying, but both Mu Zhengwu and the second-oldest brother, Mu Zhengwen, wanted to stay in school.

Mu Zhengwen offered to sacrifice. “I am older, so I should step back,” he recalled in an interview. “If I had insisted, neither of us would have had school to go to.”

Although lower grade schools were compulsory, tuition fees at that time put education all but out of reach for some impoverished families. Grades 1 through 9 became tuition-free in 2008, but costs for textbooks remained. And China has closed many village schools and consolidated them into regional hubs, which has added costs for travel and boarding, resulting in even higher rural dropout rates.

Mu Zhengwu’s father was too

to recover before resuming school the following fall.

Teachers at No. 9 resorted to corporal punishment because the mostly rural kids there “were too naughty, and there were many distractions in the city, such as billboards, arcade games and pranks,” Mu said.

Believing that education was his way out, Mu set his sights on the city’s best high school: Anshun No. 2. Well-off families could buy a slot there, but for Mu, testing into it was the only option.

But he was at another disadvantage. At Mu’s middle school, some teachers didn’t even speak standard Chinese, let alone have proper credentials to teach English, Mu said. Without money for tutoring, a computer or study aids, Mu simply pored over his English textbooks. “Every night, I recited the textbooks under the lamppost on campus. I would be up until 1 or 2 a.m.,” Mu said.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■

Mu Zhengwu was admitted to Anshun No. 2 in 2005, joined by only one of his 40-plus Tiaohuashan peers.

He recalled the stares on his first

Mu’s high school expenses were more than 10,000 yuan (\$1,500) per year. China’s compulsory education does not cover grades 10 through 12, and their tuition rates are the world’s most expensive on average, according to Stanford’s rural education program.

His middle brother again stepped up. Mu Zhengwen was earning several hundred yuan a month in a tire factory, and he gave his younger brother about 100 yuan (\$15) per week.

To do that, he skipped breakfast, avoided socializing and bought new clothes only when old ones wore out. When his sweetheart learned of these obligations, she backed out of their marriage plans, something he says he never regretted.

“Everything I have done for my brother, I have done it willingly,” he said during a late-night interview at a pastry shop near his current job, at a textile factory in the eastern city of Hangzhou. He spends 12 hours a day overseeing deafening mechanized looms on a muggy floor.

He has a wife now, and a son. But tears filled his eyes when he spoke of

Overdrive

Toyota Tundra 1794 Edition adds a Texas touch

By G. CHAMBERS WILLIAMS III
FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM

The newest generation of Toyota's San Antonio-built Tundra full-size pickup truck has arrived for 2014, sporting a new chiseled exterior design, a more-refined interior and plenty of new standard and optional technologies.

Besides being assembled in Texas, the new Tundra has 75 percent North American content, Toyota says.

The star of the new Tundra lineup is the 1794 Edition, a fancy version similar in concept to GMC's Sierra Denali, Chevrolet's Silverado High Country, and Ford's F-series King Ranch

models. It comes in the full-size CrewMax version only, with a short cargo box (5-foot-5), and a choice of either rear- or four-wheel drive.

Our test vehicle was the two-wheel-drive version, which has a list price of \$44,270. The four-wheel-drive version starts at \$47,320. With freight and options, our tester topped out at \$46,034.

Toyota says the 1794 Edition—named after the date of the founding of the ranch upon which the Tundra plant sits—“reflects a Western lifestyle theme.”

Among the truck's unique features are the saddle-brown premium leather seats, with



The 2014 Toyota Tundra has been fully redesigned, with a new chiseled exterior design and a more refined interior.

DAVID DEWHURST/TOYOTA/MCT

cluded a power tilt/telescopic steering wheel, along with front and rear sonar parking aid, which warns when the vehicle is approaching an object, such as a pole or another vehicle.

A backup camera system was included, with the image showing up on the seven-inch dash monitor for the audio/navigation system. Optional, but not included on my tester, are a blind spot monitor and rear cross traffic alert.

Under the hood was the top engine available in the Tundra, a 5.7-liter V-8 with a more-than-adequate 381 horsepower and 401 pound-feet of torque. It was paired with a six-speed automatic transmission, which shifts quite smoothly.

Among standard safety features on all Tundra models are electronic stability control with traction control, four-wheel antilock disc brakes with electronic brake-force distribution and brake assist, and Toyota's new Smart Stop accelerator-override technology.

The trucks come with eight air bags, including front seat-mounted side air bags, roof-mounted side-curtain bags, and driver and front passenger knee bags.

Also included are trailer-sway control, tire-pressure monitoring and LED daytime running lights (Platinum and 1794 Edition only). The 1794 Edition can tow trailers weighting up to 9,900 pounds with two-wheel drive, and 9,000 pounds with four-wheel drive.

Five trim levels are offered, beginning with the base SR, followed by the SR5, which is the brand's sales leader, then the Limited, Platinum and 1794 Edition. Prices are identical on the Platinum and 1794 models; the Platinum has most of the same features except for the Western theme.

NUTS & BOLTS

2014 Toyota Tundra Crewmax 1794 Edition

■ The package: Premium full-size, five-passenger, four-door, rear- or four-wheel-drive, V-8 powered, light-duty pickup truck.

■ Highlights: This is one of the two fanciest models of the new, second-generation Toyota full-size pickup. Its name comes from the date of the founding of the ranch upon which sits the San Antonio Toyota plant that makes the Tundra. The truck is all-new for 2014, and is wider and more muscular than before, with a wide range of new features and options, including new safety and connectivity technologies.

■ Negatives: Poor fuel economy

■ Engine: 5.7-liter V-8

■ Transmission: Six-speed automatic

■ Power/torque: 381 horsepower/401 pound-feet

■ Brakes, front/rear: Disc/disc, antilock

■ Length: 228.9 inches (with 5-foot-5 cargo box)

■ Curb weight: 5,480-5,860 pounds

■ Cargo capacity (payload): 1,255-1,550 pounds

■ Electronic stability control: Standard

■ Side air bags: Front seat-mounted; side-curtain both rows

■ Towing capacity: 9,900 pounds (2WD); 9,000 pounds (4WD)

■ EPA fuel economy: 13 mpg city/18 highway/15 combined (2WD); 13/17/15 (4WD)

■ Fuel capacity/type: 26.4 gallons/regular unleaded

■ Base price: \$44,270

■ Price as tested, including destination charge: \$46,034

■ On the Road rating: 9.3 (of a possible 10).

embossed-leather and suede accents; and a four-spoke, leather-wrapped steering wheel with wood-grain accents. The interior is quite striking to look at, and very pleasant to sit in. It's almost like sitting in the den of a laid-back Texas Hill Country ranch with plush leather sofas and chairs.

Yes, it's that comfortable. There are bucket seats up front that seem more like fancy leather recliners; the back seat is as long as a leather couch, with plenty of room for up to three people. And there is a huge amount of rear knee- and legroom, even with the front seats set to accommodate larger people.

Soft-touch trim materials are used on the shift console, doors and instrument panel. A center console between the front seats

has a tray on top to keep small electronics secure while driving, and there are three cupholders, along with USB, power and audio-input connections in front of the cupholders, with another area perfect for holding smartphones or an iPod.

Among standard amenities on the 1794 Edition are heated and ventilated front seats, Toyota's Entune Premium JBL Audio with navigation, a 12-way power-adjustable driver's seat with memory, a six-way power front passenger seat, a power tilt/slide sunroof with shade, and a power vertical rear window with privacy glass.

Also included are dual-zone automatic climate control with separate settings for the driver and front passenger; an auto-dimming rearview mirror with compass and universal garage/

gate opener; and a 60/40 split-fold-up rear seat, which allows for creation of an enclosed cargo area when the seat isn't needed for passengers.

Outside, the truck is a beauty as well. Ours had the quite appealing Barcelona Red Metallic exterior paint, along with very nice, optional 20-inch chrome wheels and optional running boards.

We also had heated/power outside mirrors with built-in turn signals, and separate, smaller manually adjustable convex mirror strips at the bottom to show traffic in the adjacent lanes.

The cargo box came with the optional drop-in bedliner, and the truck has a locking tailgate. There is a deck rail system for tying down cargo.

Other interior amenities in-

UNDER THE HOOD

Wheel alignment key to tire wear, auto stability

By BRAD BERGHOLDT
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

QUESTION: I just had new tires installed on my car. The place recommended a wheel alignment and said my new tires would last longer if I had this done. I agreed, then they called me back later and said I need some parts replaced or they couldn't align it. I passed on the work and am now back driving with new tires and no alignment. I'm wondering what to do now. The car doesn't shake and my tires lasted a fair distance. What does an alignment entail, and why can't it be done?

ANSWER: Wheel alignment is important for proper tire wear and straight, stable tracking. Older, rear-wheel drive vehicles required only a periodic front wheel alignment (check and/or adjustment), while front-wheel and many all-wheel drive vehicles may have adjustable components in the rear as well. Imagine the human body with very loose knees and/or ankles, or a bent femur or tibia. Your tennis shoes would likely scuff and skid a bit more than planned as you walked.

The three principal front-wheel alignment angles are caster, camber and toe. Adjustable rear suspensions include

toe, and possibly camber. Let's look at the front: Visualize a bicycle with two front wheels—parallel to each other, rather than one. Caster is the angle of the bicycle's front fork, viewed from the side—relative to vertical. Most vehicles have a few degrees or more positive caster, similar to a bicycle. If one wheel has less caster than the other, a pull to that side is likely. Stability increases with a greater amount of caster, along with additional steering effort.

Camber is the inward or outward vertical lean of each wheel. Positive camber is out at the top (bow-legged), and nega-

tive camber is inward at the top (squatting). Incorrect camber affects tire life as a leaning tire wears more on one side, and can contribute to a pull to one side.

Toe is a measurement of the two wheel's parallelism, as viewed from above and is by far the most critical. Toe-in is pigeon-toed, closer at the front than back, and toe-out is the opposite. Incorrect toe will cause dramatically increased tire wear—usually wearing one side of the tires more than the other, with a feathered tread. If, when rubbing your hand across a tire's tread, it feels smooth one way and rough the other, incorrect toe is likely.

Toe is typically adjustable, but caster and camber often aren't. Should a deep pothole or curb disrupt the original alignment angles, aftermarket kits containing offset bushings or mounting plates can often be installed to allow adjustability.

It sounds like you may have some worn parts, such as ball joints, tie rod ends, control arm bushing, or upper strut mounts—it could be one part or several. The difference between minor looseness and alignment-altering wear can be a blurry call. Wear or damage to the point of a safety concern is much easier to classify. In the case of safe but slightly worn parts, one might weigh the benefits of optimum handling and tire life versus dollars spent and remaining time

of ownership. It's possible to check/adjust static alignment on a vehicle with worn suspension components, but the angles go askew as road forces stretch the worn joints, throwing off actual driving alignment.

I'd suggest getting a second opinion on the alleged suspension parts wear to play it safe and put you at ease. If your previous tires wore well and there is no noticeable pulling, wandering, or noises, your parts and alignment may not be that bad.

Brad Bergholdt is an automotive technology instructor at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif. Readers may send him email at under-the-hood@earthlink.net; he cannot make personal replies.

Life & Style

'12 Days of Christmas' items top \$114K

PITTSBURGH (AP)—The price of lords-a-leaping and ladies dancing has spiked this holiday season, but other items mentioned in the carol "The Twelve Days of Christmas" still cost the same as they did last year.

Buying one set of the gifts mentioned in each verse costs \$27,393 in stores, or 7.7 percent more than last year, according to the so-called Christmas Price Index that PNC Wealth Management updates annually. And if you buy all 364 items repeated throughout the carol, you'll pay \$114,651—6.9 percent more than last year.

Last-minute shoppers who turn

to the Internet will pay even more for all the gifts—about \$173,000.

"We were surprised to see such a large increase from a year ago, given the overall benign inflation rate in the U.S.," said Jim Dunigan, managing executive of investments for PNC.

The federal government's core Consumer Price Index rose only 1.7 percent this year.

In the three decades since

the list was started in 1984, year-over-year increases have averaged 2.9 percent, which is exactly the same number as broader U.S. inflation. But it's a fickle list because the price of some items has barely budged, while others have soared.

Seven swans cost \$7,000 this year, the same as in 1984, while the cost of a single partridge went from \$12.57 to \$15 during the same period. One pear tree to put that partridge in? Thirty years ago it cost \$19.95, but will now set you back \$184.

The cost of nine ladies dancing is now \$7,553, or 20 percent more than last year's \$6,294, while 10 lords-a-leaping jumped 10 per-

Cost of '12 Days of Christmas' items

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Prices of items in the Christmas carol "The Twelve Days of Christmas," according to PNC Wealth Management:

- * Partridge, \$15; last year: same
- * Pear tree, \$184; last year: \$189.99
- * Two turtle doves, \$125; last year: same
- * Three French hens, \$165; last year: same
- * Four calling birds (canaries), \$600; last year: \$520
- * Five gold rings, \$750; last year: same
- * Six geese a-laying, \$210; last year: same
- * Seven swans a-swimming, \$7,000; last year: same
- * Eight maids a-milking, \$58; last year: same
- * Nine ladies dancing (per performance), \$7,553; last year: \$6,294
- * 10 lords a-leaping (per performance), \$5,243; last year: \$4,767
- * 11 pipers piping (per performance), \$2,635; last year: \$2,562
- * 12 drummers drumming (per performance), \$2,855; last year: \$2,776

cent, to \$5,243.

Seven items on the list cost

the same as they did last year,

including gold rings and turtle

doves, while pipers piping, drummers drumming, and the pear tree showed only modest changes up or down.

The swans are the most expensive item at \$1,000 each. The eight maids-a-milking still cost a total of just \$58 because the federal minimum wage hasn't risen. At \$7.25 each, they're the least expensive gifts in the song.

PNC Financial Services Group Inc. checks jewelry stores, dance companies, pet stores and other sources to compile the list. Among its sources this year were the National Aviary in Pittsburgh and the Philadelphia-based Pennsylvania Ballet Company.

Officials: Speed a factor in Walker's deadly crash

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Investigators sought to determine the cause of a fiery crash that killed "Fast & Furious" star Paul Walker while the actor's fans erected a makeshift memorial Sunday near where the Porsche he was riding in smashed into a light pole and tree.

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department said speed was a factor in Saturday's one-car crash, though it will take time to determine how fast the car was going.

Because Walker is so closely associated with the underground culture of street racing portrayed in the popular "Fast & Furious" film franchise, the fatal accident had an eerie quality—a tragic end for a Hollywood hero of speed.

The crash also killed Walker's friend and financial adviser Roger Rodas, according to Walker's publicist, Ame Van Iden. She said Walker was a passenger in the 2005 red Porsche Carrera GT when they drove away from a fundraiser in the community of Valencia, about 30 miles northwest of downtown Los Angeles.

Sheriff's deputies found the car engulfed in flames when they arrived at the site of the crash, near the fundraiser at Rodas' sport car dealership. Officials have not identified either



Sheriff's deputies work near the wreckage of a Porsche that crashed into a light pole on Hercules Street near Kelly Johnson Parkway in Valencia, Calif., on Saturday, Nov. 30, 2013. Inset, file photo shows actor Paul Walker wearing a creation from the Colcci summer collection at Sao Paulo Fashion Week in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

person found in the car.

On Sunday, fans of Walker, 40, gathered to leave flowers, candles and memorabilia from the action movies.

Walker is "gone but he'll never be forgotten because there are so many people that look up to him," Joel Perez, 23, told the

Los Angeles Times at the memorial.

Sheriff's deputy Peter Gomez said investigators are working to determine how fast the car was traveling and what caused it to go out of control, including whether the driver was distracted or something in the road

prompted him to swerve.

After the Porsche crashed into a light pole and tree, it burst into flames. The downed light pole had a speed limit sign of 45 mph.

Walker rode the "Fast & Furious" franchise to fame, starring in all but one of the six action blockbusters, beginning with the first film in 2001. He had been on break from shooting the seventh installment; production began in September and while much of the film has been shot, it's incomplete.

Universal Pictures has not said what it plans to do with "Fast & Furious 7," which currently is slated for release in July.

Walker and Rodas had thrown a fundraiser benefiting victims of the recent typhoon in the Philippines.

The event was held by Reach Out Worldwide, a charity Walker founded in 2010 to aid victims of natural disasters. The fundraiser and toy drive took place at Rodas' custom

car shop, Always Evolving, in an area of warehouses and office parks. Attendees rushed to the crash, which was nearby but out of sight, to try to put out the flames with fire extinguishers.

One attendee of the event, Jim Torp, said he heard the loud sound of a car's engine revving and then an explosion. Walker and Rodas planned a quick ride, Torp said.

"The last words Paul said to anybody were, 'Hey, I'll be back in five minutes. All right?' And that was it," according to Torp.

Torp said Rodas had a young son, whom he tried to stop from running to the accident scene, but could not catch him in time.

Walker left behind two completed films. He stars in the upcoming Hurricane Katrina drama "Hours," which Lionsgate's Pantelion Films is to release Dec. 13. He also stars in "Brick Mansions," a remake of the French action film "District B13" that Relativity plans to release next year.

His "Fast & Furious" co-stars reacted in shock the actor's death. Vin Diesel posted a photograph of him and Walker arm-in-arm on Instagram with the message: "I am absolutely speechless." Lucadris said on Twitter: "Wherever you blessed your presence you always left a mark, we were like brothers."

Walker is survived by his 15-year-old daughter.



CLEVELAND (AP)—Old-time Elvis Presley fans and lots of newer, younger ones flocked to a new exhibit at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum Friday to see his stylish ID bracelet, custom-made motorcycle, eye-catching rings and military mementos.

The exhibit opened in conjunction with Elvis Presley Enterprises and includes more than 40 artifacts loaned by his Graceland mansion in Memphis, Tennessee.

The items include a walnut-

Elvis items featured at Rock and Roll Hall of Fame

size 41-carat ruby and diamond ring, a 25.5-carat opal ring and a sapphire pinkie ring.

The rock hall inducted Presley in 1986 and calls him "the undisputed King of Rock and Roll."

The rock hall says he holds records for the most Top 40 hits with 104 and the most Top 10 hits with 38.

"Elvis was the creator, he was the beginning," said fan Peter Webster, 72, of Portland,

Maine, while visiting the rock hall during a family holiday gathering in Cleveland. "There were other people who sang rock 'n roll music before he did, but he brought rock 'n roll music onto the stage."

Visitors lined up to watch a video montage and check out Presley's 1975 custom made SuperTrike motorcycle and the white suit that he wore when he performed the song "If I Can Dream" in a television special.

There's also the script for a 1968 NBC special and a 1971 souvenir menu for Presley's shows in Lake Tahoe.

Presley's Army service beginning in 1958 at Fort Chaffee, Arkansas, gets the headline treatment, including his fatigue shirt, his induction orders and his signed receipt for an M1 rifle.

His military service and smiling photo pointing to his sergeant's stripes may surprise people more familiar with the

anti-draft sentiment years later during the Vietnam war.

"I think people respected him because he served in the Army," Webster said.

The Presley exhibit at the rock hall alongside Lake Erie is updated every two years with loaned items from Graceland.

"We're using it as a chance to introduce some really iconic artifacts and also to change up the exhibition space. It's more than just a refresh," said rock

hall president and CEO Greg Harris.

"We all know Elvis didn't invent rock 'n roll. He was the shot heard 'round the world for everybody to embrace it and be moved by it," Harris said.

Presley was born in Tupelo, Mississippi, on Jan. 8, 1935, and grew up surrounded by gospel music. He died of a heart attack at Graceland on Aug. 16, 1977. He was 42.

Elvis Presley Enterprises was created by the Elvis Presley Trust to manage its assets.

Stay classy: Ron Burgundy co-anchors newscast

By DIRK LAMMERS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Television viewers in Bismarck, North Dakota, were treated to some real class this weekend when none other than the great Ron Burgundy read them the news.

Actor and comedian Will Ferrell reprised his "Anchorman" role for KXMB's Saturday night news broadcast. The former "Saturday Night Live" star is promoting "Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues," a sequel to the 2004 film about a fictional news team's sexist reaction to the arrival of an ambitious female reporter.

Dressed in his signature rust-colored three-piece suit and a striped tie, Ferrell read stories off the teleprompter, punctuated them with exaggerated eye blinks and engaged in witty banter with weekend anchor Amber Schatz and the rest of the Bismarck news team.

Schatz said she has watched the original "Anchorman" about 30 times, and the hardest part of co-anchoring the newscast with Ferrell was holding back laughter every time he spoke in character.

"The second he said, 'Good evening, I'm Ron Burgundy,' I lost it," Schatz said Sunday. "It was really hard not to laugh."

Ferrell also clowning around, popping into Schatz's screen while she read a story and telling her after a commercial break, "Amber, you look lovely tonight" before asking her if she was married.

When Schatz told him she wasn't married, Ferrell replied, "Well I am, so don't get any ideas."

The online video of the 30-minute newscast, which is



This 2004 file photo originally released by Paramount Pictures shows Will Ferrell as anchorman Ron Burgundy in "Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy."

making the rounds on social media, is part of a widespread marketing campaign for the movie sequel that has included Dodge Durango commercials, a new Ben & Jerry's ice cream flavor named "Scotchy Scotch Scotch," and Burgundy's own exhibit at the Newseum in Washington, D.C.

On Sunday, Ferrell headed to Winnipeg, where he helped open Canada's Roar of the Rings curling championship for

broadcaster TSN. The winners will represent Canada in curling at the Sochi Olympics.

He even tried his luck releasing a rock on the ice and donned a kilt to the delight of fans. In speaking with reporters, he said the name Winnipeg was Latin for the small tundra bunny who lives in the hole on the hill.

As for curling jargon, Ferrell said he knows what "hurry hard" means, but uses it mostly when he's stuck in traffic to get the

driver in front to start moving.

KXMB is one of two CBS-affiliated television stations serving central and western North Dakota. The Bismarck station shares programming with Minot's KXMC, but the two stations produce separate newscasts.

Sales manager Tammy Blumhagen said Ferrell's agent contacted the station in May and asked if he could anchor or co-anchor a newscast as part of the promotion tour for "Anchorman

2." She's not sure why KXMB was selected.

"When they called us, we kind of jumped at the opportunity," she said.

No money changed hands, Blumhagen said, and both the movie and television station are garnering significant publicity from the numerous shares on Facebook and Twitter.

Station managers did want some assurances that the stunt wouldn't go too far, and Blum-

hagen said Ferrell was on board with maintaining the integrity of the newscast.

Schatz, who typically anchors the weekend newscasts alone, said she didn't learn that she'd share the dais until Wednesday. It was a complete surprise to viewers.

During Saturday evening's newscast, Ferrell occasionally strayed from the script.

While extolling the tale of firefighters extinguishing a trash fire in a Sam's Club parking lot, Ferrell seemed impressed that crews used 500 gallons of water and foam to put out the blaze: "I repeat, 500 gallons."

He also drew laughs from Schatz when he mispronounced s'mores as "sah-mores," overdramatized his tease of the "Dakota Storm Center," and noted after the sports segment, "I've never seen fighting in a hockey match before. That was fascinating."

Schatz, 31, who has worked in small markets in the Dakotas for eight years, said the whole experience was surreal. If she could choose how to spend her 15 minutes of fame, "I would choose this exact thing."

The news team expected Ferrell to end with his "Stay classy" catchphrase, but he missed the cue, saying: "What? Am I supposed to read that?"

The crew got to hear him say "Stay classy, Bismarck," during the credits, but his microphone had already been cut off.

"He did say it, it just didn't air," Schatz said.

'Catching Fire,' 'Frozen' break box office records

"The Hunger Games: Catching Fire" and 3-D animated musical "Frozen" dished up box office records over the Thanksgiving holiday.

Lionsgate's sequel earned a prodigious \$75 million in its second weekend, while Disney's frosty fete opened with \$67 million, according to studio estimates Sunday.

Both films bested the previous Thanksgiving record holder, "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone," which earned \$57.5 million in 2001 over a three-day period.

Snowballing its way to the top, "Frozen" became the biggest Thanksgiving opening ever and the largest opening for Walt Disney Animation Studios.

"For a company whose foundation was built on animation, to have this as the biggest opening ever is a pretty extraordinary thing," said Dave Hollis, executive vice president of distribution at Walt Disney Studios, adding that the box office draw of "Frozen" exceeded studio expectations.

"We came into the weekend feeling like anything that would exceed the result from 'Tangled'

from a couple years back would be great," Hollis added. "Tangled" opened with \$68.7 million in 2010. "We thought something in the \$70-\$80 million range is what might be possible with 'Frozen.' We are hoping it lends itself to a big, long payoff after this great start."

The films topped records for the highest domestic box office grosses for the three-day and five-day holiday weekend. "Catching Fire" blazed the trail to No. 1 and "Frozen" slid in at No. 2.

"Catching Fire" earned the biggest-ever gross for a film from Wednesday to Sunday over the Thanksgiving holiday. It brought in \$110.2 million, raising its domestic total to \$297 million. "Frozen" scored \$93 million over the five days, topping Disney's previous five-day champ, "Toy Story 2," which earned \$80.1 million in 1999.

"All of these records being broken, it's like a true snowball effect," said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for box-office tracker Rentrak. "Overall, this is the biggest Thanksgiving weekend for the industry ever. Last year was the



This publicity photo released by Lionsgate shows Jennifer Lawrence, left, as Katniss Everdeen and Josh Hutcherson as Peeta Mellark in a scene from the film, "The Hunger Games: Catching Fire."

Thanksgiving record holder, but this one-two punch with 'Catching Fire' and 'Frozen' was just amazing."

Internationally, "Catching Fire" continued to bring the heat, earning a total of \$276 million through Sunday. Opening No. 1 in France, Italy and Belgium, the sequel exceeded the opening weekend of "The Hunger Games" in all three markets. Overall, the sequel has grossed \$573 million worldwide.

After dominating the box office during its first two weeks in theaters, Disney's "Thor: The

Dark World" dropped to No. 2 last weekend and was knocked down one more spot to No. 3 this weekend, earning \$11.1 million. Globally, it continues to keep Disney on the map with a total of \$591.1 million.

Maintaining a healthy position at the box office, Universal's romantic comedy "The Best Man Holiday" held the fourth slot with \$8.5 million, while thriller "Homefront," starring Jason Statham and James Franco, opened in the No. 5 slot with \$7 million.

Also debuting over the holi-

1. "The Hunger Games: Catching Fire," \$75 million (\$92.5 million international).
2. "Frozen," \$67 million (\$16.7 million international).
3. "Thor: The Dark World," \$11.1 million (\$12.2 million international).
4. "The Best Man Holiday," \$8.5 million.
5. "Homefront," \$7 million (\$1.2 million international).
6. "Delivery Man," \$6.9 million.
7. "The Book Thief," \$4.9 million.
8. "Black Nativity," \$3.9 million.
9. "Philomena," \$3.8 million.
10. "Last Vegas," \$2.8 million (\$2.2 million international).

day, Fox Searchlight's "Black Nativity" landed in the top 10 with \$3.9 million, while the Weinstein Co.'s "Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom," starring Idris Elba, saw a solid launch, earning \$100,306 despite playing in just four theaters.

Opening with \$850,000, Spike Lee's "Oldboy" failed to make an impressive impact at the box office. (AP)

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NZ airline reveals image of Hobbit dragon

AUCKLAND, New Zealand (AP)—New Zealand's national airline unveiled a giant image Monday of the dragon Smaug on one of its planes to celebrate the premiere of the second movie in the Hobbit trilogy.

Air New Zealand showed the 54-meter (177-foot) image that's featured on both sides of a Boeing 777-300 aircraft. The plane is scheduled to fly to Los Angeles in time for the premiere of "The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug," which screens Monday, Pacific Standard Time at the Dolby Theatre.

It was the first time fans got a chance to see director Peter Jackson's interpretation of Smaug. In the first movie, the director revealed only the dragon's eye.

The Hobbit trilogy was filmed in New Zealand and is based on the book of the same name by J.R.R. Tolkien.

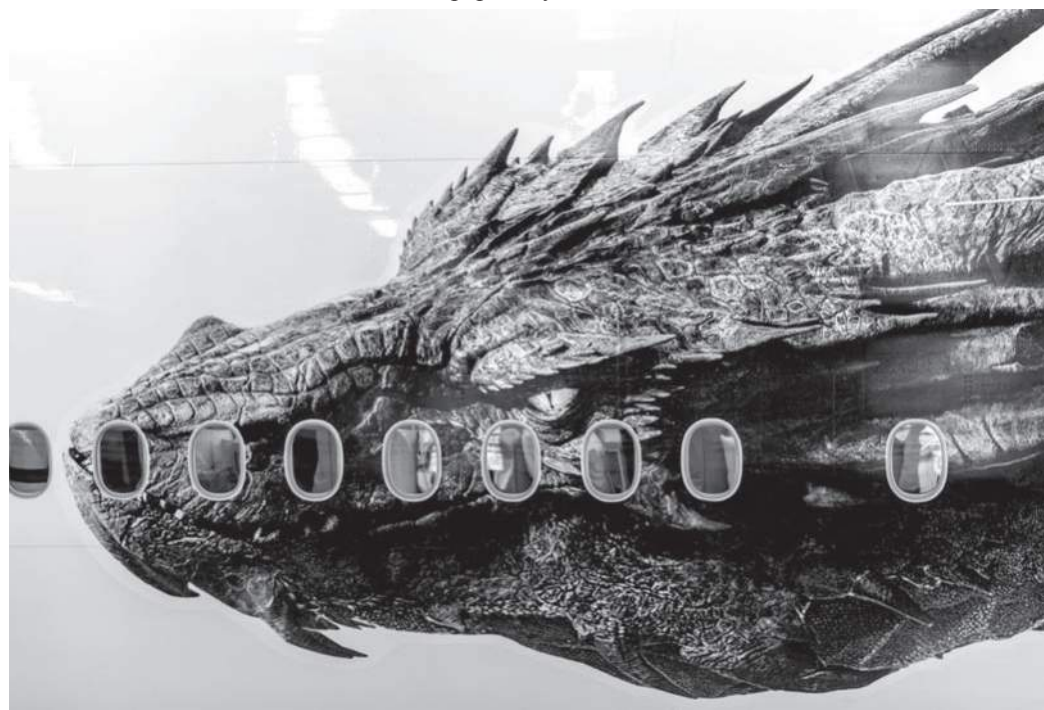
The movie opens in theaters in mid-December.

The image is a decal, or giant sticker, produced by special effects studio Weta Digital, which also worked on the movie.

Air New Zealand spokesman Andrew Aitken said it intends to keep the decal on the plane for at least a year, until the opening of the third Hobbit movie. The airline also used a

decal to celebrate the opening of the first movie.

New Zealand has sought to use the popularity of the movies as a way to market itself and boost tourism.



In this photo taken Friday, Nov. 29, 2013, released by Air New Zealand, an image of the dragon Smaug from Peter Jackson's Hobbit trilogy is shown on the side of an Air New Zealand plane in Auckland, New Zealand.

Star Chinese director admits defying 1-child rule

BEIJING (AP)—Star Chinese director Zhang Yimou has admitted flouting his country's strict family planning rules by having three children with his wife, but rejected rumors that he had fathered seven children with several women.

Zhang's office issued an open letter through its verified microblog account on the Twitter-like Sina Weibo site saying the director and his wife, Chen Ting, have two sons and a daughter.

This is the first time Zhang has responded to reports that circulated online in May that the director of "The Flowers of

War," starring Christian Bale, had seven children from two marriages and relationships with two other women.

The letter says Zhang and his wife were willing to accept an investigation by the family planning committee in Chen's hometown, the eastern city of Wuxi.

Ohio still home to 'A Christmas Story'

CLEVELAND (AP)—Fans of the 1983 movie "A Christmas Story" still can't get enough of its quirky humor and heartwarming family theme and are relishing this season's 30th anniversary celebration.

Hundreds stood in line Saturday to get into the home in Cleveland, where some of the movie was filmed and 9-year-old Ralphie dreamed of getting

an air rifle for Christmas. The story's 1940s trappings are all there: the iconic leg lamp, a typewriter and globe, a BB gun range in the backyard.

At a hotel in the city's Public Square, some of the original cast members signed autographs. And thousands were thrilled during the city's annual winter festival when a gigantic image of a leg lamp was projected onto a tower.



In this Nov. 21, 2013, photo, visitors wait to tour the house in Cleveland where much of the 1983 movie "A Christmas Story" was filmed.

Ebert's nonprofit will match donations for statue

CHAMPAIGN, Illinois (AP)—The nonprofit group headed by Roger Ebert's wife will match up to \$25,000 in donations toward a bronze sculpture honoring the late film critic.

The life-sized sculpture will be installed outside the Virginia Theatre in Champaign, Illinois, where the annual film festival called Ebertfest is held. Ebert grew up in neighboring Urbana and attended the University of Illinois. He died in April at age 70 following a long battle with cancer.

The statue will depict Ebert sitting in a theater seat making his iconic "thumbs up" gesture. The project's budget is about

\$122,500, according to a Sunday story by the (Champaign) News-Gazette.

"This matching grant enables donors that act now to have their contributions have even more impact because of the match that will be made by the Ebert Foundation," Scott Anderson, who heads the fundraising, told the newspaper.

Ebert's wife, Chaz Ebert, runs the Robert Ebert Foundation. The nonprofit group supports arts and education programs. If more money than what's needed for the sculpture and associated costs is raised, it will be given to the Roger Ebert Film Center at the university.

US rappers say they filmed music video in NKorea

BEIJING (AP)—Two aspiring American rappers said Saturday that they had filmed part of a music video in North Korea, hoping the novel locale will make a hit.

The rappers known as Pacman and Peso did not say where and how they filmed the footage, which their fundraising proposal suggested would be done on a karaoke party bus in Pyongyang.

Their custom trip was arranged through a travel agency specializing in taking Westerners to North Korea, according to the proposal.

Americans are able to travel to North Korea on arranged tours and are constantly accompanied by North Korea minders.

After an elderly American was detained in the country, the U.S. State Department issued a

travel warning on Nov. 19, advising against all travel by U.S. citizens to North Korea.

The two rappers said their trip shied away from politics.

"I mean we did not go there to be political. We just go down there to shoot our video and that about the reason why we went, not political," said Pacman—whose real name is Anthony Bobb.

The duo from the Washington area spoke to reporters at an airport in Beijing upon their return from a five-day trip to North Korea.

"Nobody shot a video in North Korea, let alone thought of it. Nobody even thought of making a video in North Korea. You know what I'm saying?" said Peso, whose real name is Dontray Ennis.

Woman saddened by wonderful partner who doesn't want kids

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I am a 38-year-old woman who has been dating a 41-year-old man for seven months. He's wonderful and treats me magnificently. We have similar values and interests and are very much in love. Sadly, although I have always wanted children, he does not.

At my age, I have dated enough men to know that I have found someone special. I realize my choice is either to stay in a relationship with a fabulous partner, knowing we won't have children, or end it, hoping I'll find someone just as wonderful who wants kids.

Your advice in making the hardest decision of my life would be greatly appreciated.

MATERNAL IN NEW YORK

DEAR MATERNAL: I'll try. Many women in their late 30s find that conceiving a child is complicated, and it can also take longer than they thought. It has taken you 38 years to find this exceptional man, and it could take quite a bit of time to find another one who is so compatible.

Look at it this way: If you married "Mr. Wonderful" and learned afterward that he couldn't father a child, would you leave him? Insist on adopting? Or would you count the many blessings you do have with him and stay?

Many women are happily childless. However, if you're not one of them, you should take your chances and move on—remembering that there are no guarantees.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I work on a busy street in San Francisco where smokers walk around puffing all day while ignoring those around them. Don't you think they should be considerate enough to smoke at designated areas only and not while walking with their secondhand smoke billowing around other pedestrians?

I have seen pregnant women and children inundated by the smoke as these puffers stroll by with no regard. We nonsmokers would appreciate their courtesy for others because we don't want to inhale what they're smoking. Can you comment?—

HATES THAT HABIT

DEAR HATES THAT HABIT: I hate it, too, but unless there is an ordinance in your city that prohibits smoking on certain sidewalks, I think it's unrealistic to expect smokers who inhale not to exhale.

■■■

DEAR READERS: Years ago, a young mother in Arlington, Va., wrote my mother about a book she had received that promised to help parents prepare their children for school by expanding their vocabulary. The "secret"? Reading to them while they are small.

Children learn words by hearing them spoken in context—the more they hear, the more they absorb. Like everything else, reading is something people will do more of if they enjoy it. When a parent reads to a child, the child associates reading with pleasure.

"The Read-Aloud Handbook" by Jim Trelease became a huge best-seller when it was published. Penguin Books called it one of the 75 most important books it has published in its history. The book is now in its seventh—and LAST—edition and has been completely revised and updated. If you're a parent who wants your child to succeed, a grandparent, or someone contemplating becoming a parent in the future, pick up a copy.

The first half is filled with the latest research on the importance of literacy for children's success; the rest lists book titles and ages of the youngsters for which they're intended. To learn more about the author, visit www.trelease-on-reading.com. To order the book, go to www.penguin.com.—Love, ABBY

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

■■■

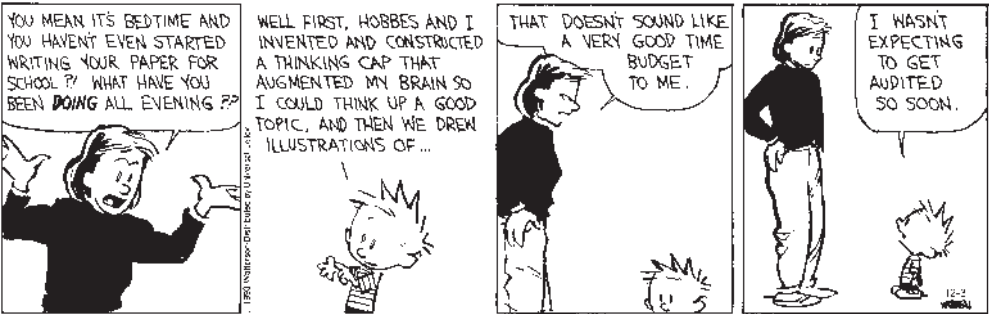
Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

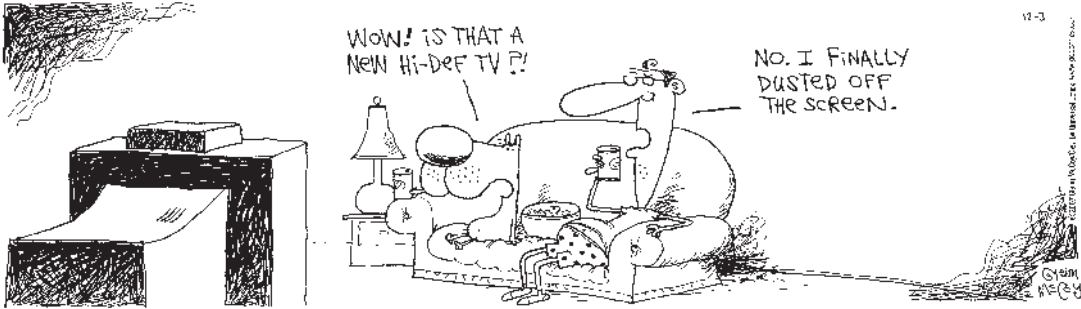
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The Duplex By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 News-paper pg. 5 "Today I — man" 8 Country musician Atkins 12 Old foggy 13 That girl 14 Posterior 15 Sundae essential 17 Besides that 18 Parisian's refusal 19 Feedbag tidbit 20 Monopoly, Scrabble et al. 21 Despondent 22 Cooking spray name 23 "Cry, the Beloved Country" author Alan 26 Rubdown 30 "Zounds!" 31 Formal garb 32 Respon-sibility

DOWN 1 Valhalla 2 Slightly, to the 3 Paradise 4 Elmer, to 5 Winning 6 Vegan's no-no 7 Branch 8 Vanilla-flavored beverage 9 Steering site 10 Comfort 11 Very (Fr.) 16 Reddish horse 20 Petrol 21 Carbon-ated liquid 22 Peace (Lat.) 23 Energy 24 — Khan 25 — Mahal 26 Greek consonants 27 Santa — winds 28 Wrigley product 29 Curvy character? 31 Levy 34 Actor von Sydow 35 Church section 37 Stop slouching 38 Scepters 39 Send forth 40 Old Italian money 41 Tibetan monk 42 Wading bird 43 52 cards 44 Rhyming tributes 46 Sopping 47 Genetic letters

Solution time: 21 mins.

A	D	A	A	R	T	F	L	A	W
B	O	F	F	S	O	W	O	A	T
E	U	R	O	H	O	E	O	B	E
D	R	O	O	L	D	E	N	I	
Z	A	M	B	O	N	I			
A	R	I	A	A	C	E	L	O	A
G	U	L	L	S	E	V	I	D	E
S	M	E	L	L	S	E	L	I	
P	U	P	A	I	O	N	R	A	R
T	R	I	M	R	Y	E	S	L	O
A	N	T	E	K	A	T	E	S	T

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Amanda Seyfried, 28; Holly Marie Combs, 40; Brendan Fraser, 45; Julianne Moore, 53.

Happy Birthday: Don't pass up an opportunity to learn something or to make new acquaintances. The information you gather will help you reach your goals over the coming year. Change is inevitable, and if you adapt to what you encounter along the way, you will end up benefiting from the developments that take place. Procrastination is not an option. Your numbers are 2, 8, 17, 25, 32, 38, 41.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Do what suits you. Take a leap of faith and head in a direction that encourages you to learn about new people, places and skills. Step away from anyone putting pressure on you to do something that doesn't feel right. *****

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Interact with knowledgeable people with whom you share an interest, but don't make a decision that might hold you hostage. Check out your options as well as how you can cut corners to make a new project more feasible. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't waste any time when it comes to helping others or living up to your promises. A personal accomplishment will make you feel good about your future. Networking or reconnecting with an acquaintance will make you reflect and move on. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You'll pick up information easily. Look for signals that can guide you to a better position. A personal relationship will need an adjustment if you

want to move forward without baggage. An infatuation may lead you in the wrong direction. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Make adjustments that will help improve future dealings. Attend a lecture or make minor self-improvements that will put you in a better position to negotiate what you want. Enhance your chance to achieve success. A change will do you good. *****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): There will be a fine line between saying what's on your mind and letting your emotions spill. Concentrate on what you can change, not what you cannot. The people you feel most comfortable with are the ones to gravitate toward. **

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Share your thoughts and explore subjects and interests that can help you meet new people. You may want to make an impression, but don't spend or overdo it in order to do so. Sticking to a budget and being responsible will be noticed. *****

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Offer ideas and share your plans. You can make personal domestic alterations that will improve your living conditions. Don't be reluctant to do things differently. It's your uniqueness that will garner attention. Love is on the rise and will enhance your life. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Gravitate toward change and try something new. Don't let anyone stand between you and your professional goals. Anger won't pay off but outdoing someone who challenges you will. Make an impression and show how passionate you are about what you do. ***

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Stand your ground. Don't feel you have to give in to someone who is making last-minute changes. Proceed down the path you chose without giving in to what anyone else is doing. You will come out on top if you are tenacious. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Listen carefully and go about your business. Don't make trouble by arguing or trying to get others to do things your way. Pick and choose what works best for you and follow through with your plans. Don't fold under pressure. ****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Keep personal business at a distance. You cannot win an emotional battle, but you can get ahead where investments and professional jobs come into play. Focus on money, expanding your interests and upping your income and your reputation. **

Birthday Baby: You are gracious, charming and accommodating. You are courageous and fair. Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

	9		2	7					
2			9			6			
				6		8	9		
3	4				9				
9		5		4		1		8	
			6				2	9	
	1	6		9					
		4			6			7	
			3	1		4			

Difficulty Level ★★

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

3	5	2	4	1	9	7	8	6
9	1	6	7	8	5	3	2	4
4	7	8	6	2	3	1	9	5
8	6	7	1	3	4	9	5	2
5	4	1	9	7	2	6	3	8
2	3	9	5	6	8	4	1	7
1	2	4	8	9	6	5	7	3
6	9	3	2	5	7	8	4	1
7	8	5	3	4	1	2	6	9

Difficulty Level ★

WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

AZALEAS Solution: 7 letters

R Y P M F E R T I L I Z E W S
E H E R E O H C N A R B O P S
F T O L U L L E O E U L R T E
S O I D L N P I E T S I N D Z
T O R H O O I R A U N A B O I
S H G M W D W N U G L R B N S
L D G A O B E R G P E B D L L
I E T I R S E N T E G O A F L
A E L I L D A R D H O V D L E
R S G O I N E S E R I O A O B
T H B P E U N E S C T O M M W L
T E S L S M T S S E S N P E A
S M O I S T Y E P I N K R R R
W O R G E R F S W I N T E R O
M A I D I N T H E S H A D E C

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Yesterday's Answer: Switzerland

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WHATZIT Solution: Tea leaves

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Manning, Decker lead Broncos past Chiefs, 35-28



KANSAS CITY, Missouri (AP)—Peyton Manning threw for 403 yards and five touchdowns, four to Eric Decker, as the Denver Broncos held off a furious rally to beat the Kansas City Chiefs 35-28 Sunday and seize control of the American Football Conference West.

Decker had eight catches for a career-high 174 yards for the Broncos (10-2), who moved a game clear of the Chiefs (9-3) in the division. With four games left, Denver also holds the tie-breaker by virtue of two wins over Kansas City in the last three weeks.

Jamaal Charles had 93 yards rushing for the Chiefs, and capped a 17-play drive with a 1-yard touchdown run with 6:32 left in the game to close within a touchdown.

After forcing a punt with 3:32 remaining, Kansas City used three long pass plays to move deep into Broncos territory. But Alex Smith's pass to Dwayne Bowe in the end zone on fourth-and-4 with 1:45 left fell incomplete.

Panthers 27, Buccaneers 6

In Charlotte, North Carolina, Cam Newton threw for 263 yards and two touchdowns and ran for another score, as the Panthers earned a club-record eighth straight regular-season victory.

Newton threw touchdown passes to Brandon LaFell and Ted Ginn Jr. and "Superman" leaped over the pile for another score as the Panthers (9-3) out-gained the Buccaneers 426-206.

The Carolina victory sets up a huge showdown next Sunday night with New Orleans with first place in the NFC South on the line.

Newton ran for 68 yards and overcame two interceptions. The third-year quarterback has thrown for 13 touchdown passes and run for five scores during the Panthers' current win streak.

Carolina's defense came in allowing the fewest points in the league and flexed its muscles again, forcing two turnovers and sacking rookie Mike Glennon four times to snap a three-game winning streak for Tampa Bay (3-9). Glennon had thrown a touchdown pass in an NFL record eight straight games to start his career.

Bengals 17, Chargers 10

In San Diego, Andy Dalton threw a go-ahead, 21-yard touchdown pass to wide-open A.J. Green late in the third quarter as the AFC North-leading Bengals (8-4), coming off their bye, kept a two-game lead over Baltimore.

San Diego (5-7) lost the momentum it gained with a thrilling comeback win at Kansas City a week earlier and saw its playoff hopes dwindle after its fourth loss in five games.

With the score tied at 7, the



Denver Broncos wide receiver Eric Decker (87) makes a touchdown reception against Kansas City Chiefs cornerback Brandon Flowers (24) during the second half of an NFL football game, Sunday, Dec. 1, 2013, in Kansas City, Mo.

Bengals got the ball after Dre Kirkpatrick ripped it away from tight end Antonio Gates after a reception at the Cincinnati 25, the Chargers' third turnover.

Ten plays later, Green split the defense for an easy touchdown, with safety Eric Weddle and cornerback Marcus Gilchrist only able to watch.

Eagles 24, Cardinals 21

In Philadelphia, Nick Foles threw three touchdown passes and the Eagles held on. Zach Ertz had two TD catches, LeSean McCoy ran for 79 yards as the Eagles (7-5) won their fourth straight to remain tied with Dallas for first place in the NFC East.

Carson Palmer threw for 302 yards and three TD passes, but also had two interceptions and lost a fumble as the Cardinals (7-5) had their four-game winning streak snapped.

Foles picked up where he left off in November, when he was the NFC's Player of the Month and tied an NFL record with seven TDs in a game. Foles finished 21 of 34 for 237 yards against a defense ranked eighth.

Foles set a team record for most passes without an interception (233), breaking Michael Vick's mark of 224 set in 2010. He also moved within one TD pass of tying Peyton Manning's mark of 20 and zero interceptions to start a season.

Patriots 34, Texans 31

In Houston, Tom Brady threw for 371 yards and two scores, and Stephen Gostkowski made two long field goals in the fourth quarter.

The Texans' franchise-record skid reached 10 games. Gary Kubiak coached from the sideline for the first time since suffering a mini-stroke Nov. 3. He missed one game before working the last two games from the booth.

New England overcame a 24-point first-half deficit last week to beat the Broncos 34-31 in overtime. The Patriots (9-3) trailed by 10 at halftime in this one and the lead changed five times in a wild second half. New England tied it with a 53-yard field goal and took a 34-31 lead with another one from 53 with about three minutes left.

Ben Tate ran for 102 yards and three touchdowns for the Texans (2-10), who haven't won since Sept. 15. It was the first 100-yard rushing game since 2011 for Tate, who has been slowed since Oct. 20 with four broken ribs.

The victory ended a three-game road skid for the Patriots, who have won 16 of their last 17 December games.

Giants 24, Redskins 17

In Landover, Maryland, Eli Manning completed 22 of 28 passes for 235 yards, and Justin Tuck had four sacks to help shut down Robert Griffin III in the second half, leading New York over Washington.

Andre Brown had a pair of touchdown runs, including a 1-yarder early in the fourth quarter that put the Giants ahead for good.

Griffin was 16 for 17 at halftime, but he went 8 for 15 in the second half, and the Redskins

managed only 96 total yards after halftime.

The win keeps the Giants (5-7) two games behind NFC East leaders Dallas and Philadelphia with four to play, while the Redskins (3-9) were mathematically eliminated from the postseason for the 17th time in 21 years.

Colts 22, Titans 14

In Indianapolis, Adam Vinatieri equaled his career high with five field goals, including a 49-yarder to give the Colts the lead for good late in the third quarter.

Surprise starter Donald Brown scored on a 4-yard touchdown run with 1:56 left, giving Indianapolis (8-4) a three-game lead in the AFC South with four to play. It owns the first tiebreaker thanks to a season sweep of the Titans (5-7).

Vinatieri, who will be 41 later this month, bailed out the Colts, also tying his career high for field goals in a half (four) and equalling Jason Elam's NFL record for 100-point seasons (16).

Without him, the Colts might be lamenting their first back-to-back losses since December 2011. Instead, they were celebrating a renaissance of sorts. The league's oldest kicker also made field goals of 47, 48, 45 and 37 yards, and the Colts' defense, which was so good early in the season, forced four turnovers on a day the offense struggled yet again.

Vikings 23, Bears 20, OT

In Minneapolis, Blair Walsh's 34-yard field goal with 1:43 left in overtime gave the Vikings the victory after both teams missed

kicks in the extra period.

Adrian Peterson rushed 35 times for 211 yards for the Vikings (3-8-1), who tied Green Bay the previous week. Peterson had two 11-yard runs on the final drive to get well within range for Walsh, who missed a 57-yard try earlier in overtime.

Walsh had to kick that one because Rhett Ellison was called for a 15-yard face-mask penalty to wipe out a 39-yard make by Walsh that would've ended the game.

The Bears (6-6) then reached the 29-yard line, but coach Marc Trestman called for a field goal on second-and-7. Robbie Gould's 47-yarder went wide right.

49ers 23, Rams 13

In San Francisco, Anquan Boldin caught nine passes from Colin Kaepernick, and Michael Crabtree made his long-awaited season debut six months after Achilles tendon surgery. Kaepernick threw for 275 yards and Frank Gore ran for a 3-yard touchdown as the reigning NFC champion Niners (8-4) boosted their position in the playoff picture. Crabtree had a 60-yard catch, while Vernon Davis hurdled into the end zone on a 17-yard reception.

With Hall of Famer Jerry Rice in the house, Boldin made six of his receptions in the first half on the way to his second-most productive game of the year behind his 13-catch performance in the opener against Green Bay.

Phil Dawson kicked three field goals, and San Francisco's swarming defense rattled Kellen Clemens and the Rams (5-7) all day.

Dolphins 23, Jets 3

In East Rutherford, New Jersey, Ryan Tannehill threw for 331 yards and two touchdowns, leading Miami past the listless Jets to keep the Dolphins in the playoff mix.

The Dolphins (6-6) played with more of a sense of urgency while sending the Jets (5-7) to their third straight loss. New York also has a quarterback controversy on its hands as Geno Smith was benched in favor of Matt Simms after a dismal first half.

Brian Hartline and Mike Wallace had touchdown receptions for Miami, while Tannehill finished 28 for 43 with an interception.

Smith was 4 for 10 for 29 yards with an interception and an 8.3 quarterback rating before being replaced by Simms, who went 9 for 18 for 79 yards and an interception as New York's postseason hopes were severely damaged.

Falcons 34, Bills 31

In Toronto, Matt Bryant hit a 36-yard field goal 3 minutes into overtime in Buffalo's annual "home" game in Toronto.

Falcons safety William Moore set up the decisive score in a back-and-forth game by forcing a fumble on Buffalo's second play from scrimmage. He punched the ball out of the arms of Bills tight end Scott Chandler.

Cornerback Robert McClain also forced a fumble on the Bills' final possession of regulation, when he knocked the ball out of the hands of receiver Stevie Johnson at the Falcons 30 with 20 seconds remaining.

Steven Jackson scored twice, including the tying 1-yard plunge with 1:28 left for the Falcons (3-9), who snapped a five-game skid and won for the first time in six road games this season.

Fred Jackson scored twice for Buffalo (4-8).

Jaguars 32, Browns 28

In Cleveland, Cecil Shorts caught a 20-yard touchdown pass from Chad Henne with 40 seconds left, rallying the Jaguars.

On third-and-9, Henne lofted a perfect pass to the left corner for Shorts, who had beaten cornerback Joe Haden to get open. Shorts got both feet down in the end zone before tumbling out of bounds. It was a dream moment for Shorts, who grew up in Cleveland.

Henne drove the Jaguars (3-9) 80 yards in nine plays for the winning TD.

The Browns (4-8) had taken a 28-25 lead on Brandon Weeden's 95-yard TD pass to Josh Gordon with 3:55 remaining. Gordon returned from a head injury and finished with 10 catches for a team record 261 yards. Gordon is the first player in NFL history to have consecutive 200-yard games. He had 237 in a loss last week against Pittsburgh.

Pacers 16-1 after 105-100 win over Clippers



LOS ANGELES (AP)—Despite having the NBA's best record, the Indiana Pacers realize there's always room for improvement.

David West scored 14 of his 24 points in the third quarter and grabbed 12 rebounds, Paul George had 27 points, and the Pacers improved their best start in franchise history to 16-1 on Sunday with a 105-100 victory that snapped the Los Angeles Clippers' four-game winning streak.

"We can become a lot better. We're still nowhere close to where we want to be offensively, and that's the next step for us," George said. "The defense is clicking well, the transition defense is clicking well, and we're playing like a team. This was a great win for us. We knew coming in that it was going to be a hard-fought game."

Jamal Crawford led the Clippers with 20 points—the 10th time this season that a Pacers opponent didn't have anyone with more than 20. Chris Paul had 17 points and 10 rebounds, while Blake Griffin scored 16 and pulled down 12 rebounds, equaling teammate DeAndre Jordan's total.

"We're always up for a challenge, and we had a good one today," said center Roy Hibbert, who helped fuel the Pacers' seventh straight win with 19 points. "The Clippers are going to be a contender for the Western Conference finals, so we just had to get in there and grind it out today and finish it off. But we have a lot more work to do. We don't worry about swagger. We're just five individuals out there on the court playing together."

The defending Pacific Division champion Clippers played their first game since finding out that J.J. Redick will be sidelined six to eight weeks because of a broken bone in his shooting hand and a ligament tear in his right elbow.

Redick will be re-evaluated on Monday by hand specialist Dr. Steve Shin to determine what further course of treatment will be necessary. His injuries, which occurred in Friday night's 104-98 overtime win at Sacramento, complicated things even more for the Clippers with reserve forward Matt Barnes missing his sixth straight game due to an eye injury.

"The ligament looks intact, so they shouldn't have to operate on that," Redick said. "It's just the fragments of the bone. It's still swollen and there's some pain there. It's frustrating, because I have enjoyed those 17 games immensely."

Los Angeles used the same starting lineup in each of its first 16 games be-



Indiana Pacers forward David West, left, puts up a shot as Los Angeles Clippers forward Blake Griffin defends during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Sunday, Dec. 1, 2013, in Los Angeles.

fore Paul sat out Friday's game with a right hamstring strain. Rivers opted to continue using Jamal Crawford off the bench despite his 31-point outing at Sacramento, so Willie Green started in Redick's place and scored only two points in 15 minutes.

West capped a 13-3 run with an 18-footer and two free throws to give the Pacers their biggest lead, 74-60, with 4:48 left in the third. Los Angeles closed to 93-89 on Jordan's dunk off an alley-oop lob from backup point guard Darren Collison with 7:12 to play. Paul set up another one by Jordan with 1:05 to go, pulling the Clippers within 102-100.

"It's going to happen. I mean, the way CP can move the ball and throw the ball up, we're not going to take that lob away," George said. "But we're not going to give up 3s and we're not going to let their shooters get hot."

The Clippers had a chance to tie it again after a missed 3-point shot by Lance Stephenson at the other end. But Paul missed a 15-footer that rattled around the rim, and the Pacers made three of four free throws in the final 6.9 seconds to put it away.

"I had two great looks at the end," Paul said. "If I make one of those shots it ties the game up and puts pressure on them, so I was mad and disgusted in myself because I got the shot that I wanted."

George powered the Pacers to a 53-47 halftime lead with 18 points. The Clippers trailed by 11 late in the first quarter before taking their only lead, 41-40, on a dunk by Griffin with 3:05 left in the half.

Heat 99, Bobcats 98

In Miami, Chris Bosh scored 13 straight points for Miami in the final minutes, including a trio of 3-pointers that capped a late rally as the Heat found a way to beat Charlotte to extend its winning streak to 10 games.

Bosh's three 3s came in a 79-second span, the last of them putting Miami up 93-91 with 1:20 left.

LeBron James led the Heat with 26 points, Bosh finished with 22, Dwyane Wade scored 17 and Mario Chalmers added 12 for Miami, which has beaten the Bobcats 14 straight times.

Kemba Walker scored 27 points for the Bobcats, who had led the entire second half until Bosh's barrage. Gerald Henderson scored 17, and Al Jefferson finished with 16 points and 13 rebounds for Charlotte.

Thunder 113, Timberwolves 103

In Oklahoma City, Kevin Durant recorded his first triple-double of the season with 32 points, 10 rebounds and 12 assists as Oklahoma City rallied for yet another fourth-quarter win, beating Minnesota.

Oklahoma City extended its winning streak to seven games, tops in the Western Conference, and moved to 9-0 on the season at home. It's the franchise's longest home winning streak to open a season since the 2004-05 campaign, when the team played in Seattle.

Kevin Martin, in his return to Oklahoma City after joining Minnesota during the offseason, led the Timberwolves

with 24 points, while Nikola Pekovic had 22 points and 10 rebounds. The Thunder have beaten Minnesota eight straight times at home, dating to the 2008-09 season, the franchise's first in Oklahoma City.

Pelicans 103, Knicks 99

In New York, Ryan Anderson made seven 3-pointers and scored 31 points as New Orleans overcame the loss of Anthony Davis to a broken left hand to beat New York.

Tyreke Evans added 24 points, including 10 in the fourth quarter, as the Pelicans sent the Knicks to their ninth straight loss overall and seventh in a row at home.

Davis had seven points and four rebounds in the first quarter before leaving with what the Pelicans said was a non-displaced fracture in his left hand. The team said a timetable for his return has not been determined.

Carmelo Anthony finished with 23 points and rookie Tim Hardaway Jr. had 21 for the Knicks, who haven't won at home since beating Milwaukee on Oct. 30 in their season opener.

Warriors 115, Kings 113

In Sacramento, California, Stephen Curry made two free throws with 8.6 seconds left and had 12 of his 36 points in the fourth quarter, helping Golden State beat Sacramento.

Curry made five 3-pointers and also added 10 assists for the Warriors, who had lost two straight and five of six.

Klay Thompson connected on a ca-

reer-high eight 3-pointers and scored 28 points for Golden State. Harrison Barnes and David Lee had 11 points for the Warriors, who ended a four-game road trip with a 2-2 record.

In foul trouble throughout, DeMarcus Cousins had 24 points in just over 20 minutes. Marcus Thornton scored all of his 21 points in the second half for the Kings, who have dropped four straight and are now 3-7 at home.

Trail Blazers 114, Lakers 108

In Los Angeles, LaMarcus Aldridge had 27 points and nine rebounds as Portland blew most of a 20-point lead in the fourth quarter before holding on to beat Los Angeles for its 12th victory in 13 games.

Damian Lillard had 26 points and nine assists, and Wesley Matthews scored 17 points for the Blazers, whose 11-game winning streak ended four days earlier in Phoenix.

Portland returned from its holiday break with its first road victory over the Lakers in seven tries since April 11, 2010, but only after the undermanned Lakers rallied within one point in a harrowing fourth quarter.

Xavier Henry scored 27 points and Jodie Meeks added 20 for the Lakers, who had won five of six to climb above .500 for the first time this season.

Pistons 115, 76ers 100

In Auburn Hills, Michigan, Andre Drummond had 31 points and 19 rebounds as Detroit beat Philadelphia.

Drummond was limited to 34 minutes, but he still became the first player to have at least 31 points, 19 rebounds and six steals in a game since Hakeem Olajuwon in 1990. He set career highs in all three categories, two days after Maurice Cheeks left him on the bench for the last 21 minutes of Detroit's loss to the Lakers.

Brandon Jennings and Josh Smith added 20 points each for the Pistons, while Thaddeus Young had 24 for Philadelphia before fouling out late in the game.

Nuggets 112, Raptors 98

In Toronto, Nate Robinson scored 23 points off the bench as Denver beat Toronto for its sixth straight victory.

The diminutive guard hit five 3-pointers, including back-to-back baskets with just over two minutes to go, as the Nuggets pulled away.

Rudy Gay led the Raptors with 23 points, while Jonas Valanciunas added 18. DeMar DeRozan and Kyle Lowry each had 17. It was Toronto's third straight loss.

Denver's bench scoring was the difference. The Nuggets' reserves outscored their Raptors counterparts 72-16.

Florida St, Ohio St take top 2 spots in BCS



Florida State and Ohio State are in position to play for the BCS national championship, though Auburn and Missouri are close enough behind in the BCS standings to put pressure on the Buckeyes.

The Seminoles grabbed the top spot in the BCS standings released Sunday after Alabama relinquished it for the first time this season.

The Crimson Tide's wild 34-28 loss at Auburn dropped Alabama to fourth. Ohio State is second and Auburn is third. Missouri is fifth. Auburn and Missouri play in the Southeastern Conference championship game Saturday in Atlanta. The winner should get a boost in the standings, but it might not be enough to catch the unbeaten Buckeyes.

Ohio State (12-0) faces Michigan State, 10th in the

latest standings, in the Big Ten championship game Saturday in Indianapolis.

Florida State is first in both the USA Today coaches' poll and Harris poll, and rated No. 1 in the compilation of six computer rankings used in the BCS standings.

The Seminoles' .9948 BCS average makes them a lock to get to the title game in Pasadena, Calif., on Jan. 6 if they can beat Duke in the Atlantic

Coast Conference championship game Saturday.

The Buckeyes (.9503) are second in the polls and second in the computers. Auburn (.9233) is third in each. Missouri (.8428) is fifth in each. But each of those SEC Tigers is 11-1. Ohio State is riding a 24-game winning streak.

An unbeaten team from a BCS automatic-qualifying conference (ACC, Big Ten, Big 12, Pac-12, SEC and Big East, now American Athletic Conference) has never been

shut out of national championship game in favor of a team with a loss.

The SEC, which has won the last seven BCS championships, would like that to change.

"Any one-loss team in the SEC (should be considered) just because of the strength of schedule," Missouri coach Gary Pinkel said. "Hopefully that will be taken into consideration."

Jerry Palm, who analyzes the BCS for CBS.com, said there is no reason to expect the

unprecedented to happen.

"I think the voters would have to abandon Ohio State, and that's never happened in the history of the BCS," he said Sunday.

Alabama (.8539) is fourth but the Tide would need both Florida State and Ohio State to lose to get back in the title conversation.

The BCS is in its last season. It will be replaced by a four-team playoff next year, which will use a selection committee to pick the teams.

Pacquiao doesn't need to rush back to ring after win over Rios



At 34 years old, Manny Pacquiao is no longer in the prime of his career. The Filipino hero's resume is rivaled only by that of Floyd Mayweather as being this generation's top star in boxing. He's an eight-division champion, the second-highest paid boxer in the world (as of June, 2013, via Forbes.com) and holds victories over the likes of Ricky Hatton, Oscar De La Hoya and Erik Morales.

With Pacquiao facing the twilight of his career, some that would say Pac-Man needs to remain busy to make the most of his dwindling time in the sport. That's not exactly the case, though.

If Pacquiao learned anything from his dominant unanimous decision over Brandon Rios last Saturday, it's that a

little time away from the ring can go a long way in maximizing his time in it.

In the wake of Pac-Man's devastating knockout loss to Juan Manuel Marquez last December, Pacquiao took a longer hiatus between fights than he ever had in his career. He took almost an entire year off before taking on Rios in his most recent bout.

His previous longest layoff was eight months before he fought Antonio Margarito after facing Joshua Clottey.

For someone who has been a grinder his entire career, the layoff was a change of pace for Pacquiao. However, it also was a welcome one that brought about a noticeable resurgence for the boxer who thoroughly thumped Rios for the duration of their 12-round fight, as noted by Roy Jones Jr.:

Going into his last bout, there was some concern that a long layoff could mean the end for Pacquiao's career. After fighting at least twice each year since 1995, he has always been a grinder who is used to staying active.

Now that he's proved that he can come back after a year away from action, Pacquiao shouldn't be afraid to rip a page out of Mayweather's book.

While Pacquiao has always been the grinder, Mayweather has always been more calculating and conservative in booking bouts. This year marked the first that "Money" had fought twice in a year since 2007. Even back then, he waited until 2009 to re-enter the ring for a bout with Juan Manuel Marquez.

The result for Mayweather has been a career devoid of disappointing per-

formances and the ability to still fight at an incredibly high level despite being 36 years old. That isn't to say that Pacquiao has made a mistake by fighting 62 times since 1995. He has earned his reputation as one of boxing's top stars by staying busy and taking on all comers in eight different weight classes.

But longevity is the name of the game now. Whether he books rematches with Marquez or Tim Bradley, or finally gets a bout with Mayweather, Pacquiao shouldn't be afraid to take as much time off as he needs.

He has already proven that he can come back to the ring looking revitalized rather than rusty. That's going to be the key for him as he tries to earn a few more statement wins to close out his legendary career.



Saipan Swim Club holds 3 tournaments



Saipan Swim Club will close the year by holding three competitions this month.

First up a mini swim meet for all beginners this Friday at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool. Then on Dec. 14 it

will be the turn of the SSC Masters members to plunge into the pool.

From Marpi, SSC will head down to Oleai for the 7th Annual Jingle Bell Fun Run, which is set for Dec. 18.

The starting/finish line for the late afternoon race is the Minatchom At-

dao Pavilion with runners heading to as far as the Quartermaster Road before returning to the pavilion. Registration fee is only \$15 and the first 100 finishers will get a free shirt.

Last year, over 100 runners joined the SSC Jingle Bell Fun Run with vet-

eran runner Steven Pixley leading the finishers of the nearly 4.5-kilometer race after clocking in at 19:40.

For more information about these three SSC events, call 234-7859 or send email to saipanswimclub@gmail.com. **(PR)**

LAGUNA

From Page 28

the first semis game set for today at 6:30pm. The second Final Four pairing will be played at 8pm with Laguna facing Armatech/MDX (6-4).

Laguna enters today's playoff round coming off a big 25-point win over Shakir Realty, which did not have a chance to pull off an upset against the former, losing the match as early as the first half. Laguna built an early double-digit spread, 22-12, and pulled away after the first 20 minutes of play, as it

held Shakir Realty to 6 points in the second canto for a comfortable 42-18 advantage.

Jun Alipio led Laguna's strong start, finishing the first half with 13 points, while his three other teammates also contributed at least 6 points apiece. Shakir's lackluster performance in the first half featured a forgettable three-fieldgoal output in the second quarter. No Shakir player scored in twin digits in the first half, as its leading scorer, Arthur Montes, made only 6 points.

Shakir picked up its scoring a bit in

the third period, but still Laguna outgunned the former, 18-16, to stretch the lead to 26, 60-34. Then in the fourth quarter, Shakir never made enough headway to at least cut the deficit to a decent number.

Jun Tabora led Erika's lopsided win after scoring 23 points, while Alipio and Melvin Villarin chipped in 16 and 11 markers, respectively. Montes had 23 for Shakir Realty, while Ernie Moises added 15. Shakir Realty missed the contribution of Joselino Canoy, who averaged in double figures in the team's first nine matches, but had only

3 points in their final game.

Meanwhile, victors in today's semi-finals games will play in the winner-take-all finale this Saturday, while losers will battle for the third place trophy this Thursday.

Erika's 84 – Tabora 23, Alipio 16, Villarin 11, Catalla 9, Buhay 8, Catacutan 4, Geli 4, Guinto 2.

Shakir Realty 59 – Montes 23, Moises 15, Bautista 8, Paraiso 4, Surima 4, Canoy 3.

Scoring by quarters: 22-12, 42-18, 60-34, 84-59.

SAN ANTONIO

From Page 28

two automatic quarterfinals tickets in their group.

San Roque also has one more game left and will need a victory to advance to the first round of the playoffs. San Roque has a 2-4 record for a tie for fifth to sixth place in the team standings with I Love Saipan. Only the No. 3 to No. 6 finisher in Pool B will make it to the first round of the playoffs and CJ Signs (4-2) and Natural Mystic (4-3) have secured the first two spots, leaving San Roque, I Love Saipan, and Island Manpower (2-5) to battle for the two remaining tickets. Maplas (0-7) is already out.

San Antonio denied San Roque an early entry to the first round of the playoffs after dominating their make-up game last weekend. The match was

first set for Oct. 21, but was rescheduled due to rain. When the game finally kicked off, San Antonio quickly shifted to high gear and raced to a 28-14 lead. San Antonio never looked back from thereon, as its younger and faster crew proved to be too much for the veteran players of San Roque.

Mike Espinosa led four San Antonio players in double digits with his 16 points. Jack Aranda and Melvin Cadiang nailed 14 apiece, while Nevin Salem added 12. McLain Achas and Angelo Fernando were the only two double figure scorers for San Roque, making 25 and 19, respectively.

Adobo 66, Fliptop 65

In the other game last Saturday, defending champion Adobo escaped Fliptop.

Ichitaro Faisao lifted Adobo to the 1-point victory, drilling two crucial free throws in the closing seconds of

the game. He trooped to the stripe after driving to the basket and getting a foul on Won Joo Jung.

After Faisao canned the important free throws, Fliptop was left with enough time (nine seconds) to make the game-winning basket, but Mike Babauta missed on his shot as time expired.

With the win, Adobo improved to a 3-3 record and kept its distance against Fliptop (2-4) and Kixx Engine Oil (2-4). These three teams along with Saipan Ice (3-3) are fighting for Pool A's last two slots in the first round of the playoffs. Docomo (4-1) leads Pool A and is likely to be joined in the Round of 8 by Fong's Bakery (4-2). Chinatown and NMI Contractor have similar 4-3 record and are on their way to making it to the first round of the playoffs.

Besides connecting the winning bas-

kets for Adobo, Faisao also top-scored for his team, recording 29 points. Donnel Isip led Fliptop's losing cause, firing 18.

First Game

Adobo 66 – Faisao 29, Saturno 8, Feria 7, Apelo 7, Vertudez 4, Palacios 4, Yap 3.

Fliptop 65 – Isip 18, Hockett 12, Jung 10, Babauta 8, Camacho 7.

Scoring by quarters: 18-12, 34-31, 55-47, 66-55.

Second Game

San Antonio 83 – Espinosa 16, Aranda 14, Cadiang 14, Salem 12, Del Rosario 8, De Guzman 7, Caro 4.

San Roque 59 – Achas 25, Fernando 19, Odicla 3, Alipio 3, Manglona 3, Gapor 3, Pineda 2.

Scoring by quarters: 28-14, 42-29, 58-41, 83-59.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	6	10	.375	—
Boston	7	12	.368	½
Philadelphia	6	12	.333	1
Brooklyn	5	12	.294	1½
New York	3	13	.188	3

Southeast Division

Miami	14	3	.824	—
Atlanta	9	9	.500	5½
Washington	8	9	.471	6
Charlotte	8	10	.444	6½
Orlando	6	10	.375	7½

Central Division

Indiana	16	1	.941	—
Chicago	7	8	.467	8
Detroit	7	10	.412	9
Cleveland	5	12	.294	11
Milwaukee	3	13	.188	12½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	14	3	.824	—
Houston	13	5	.722	1½
Dallas	10	8	.556	4½
New Orleans	8	8	.500	5½
Memphis	8	8	.500	5½

Northwest Division

Portland	14	3	.824	—
Oklahoma City	12	3	.800	1
Denver	10	6	.625	3½
Minnesota	9	10	.474	6
Utah	3	15	.167	11½

Pacific Division

L.A. Clippers	12	6	.667	—
Golden State	10	8	.556	2
Phoenix	9	8	.529	2½
L.A. Lakers	9	9	.500	3
Sacramento	4	11	.267	6½

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	9	3	0	.750	322	261
Miami	6	6	0	.500	252	248
N.Y. Jets	5	7	0	.417	189	310
Buffalo	4	8	0	.333	267	307

South

Indianapolis	8	4	0	.667	285	274
Tennessee	5	7	0	.417	264	267
Jacksonville	3	9	0	.250	174	352
Houston	2	10	0	.167	230	323

North

Cincinnati	8	4	0	.667	292	216
Baltimore	6	6	0	.500	249	235
Pittsburgh	5	7	0	.417	263	278
Cleveland	4	8	0	.333	231	297

West

Denver	10	2	0	.833	464	317
Kansas City	9	3	0	.750	298	214
San Diego	5	7	0	.417	279	277
Oakland	4	8	0	.333	237	300

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

Dallas	7	5	0	.583	329	303
Philadelphia	7	5	0	.583	300	281
N.Y. Giants	5	7	0	.417	237	297
Washington	3	9	0	.250	269	362

South

New Orleans	9	2	0	.818	305	196
Carolina	9	3	0	.750	285	157
Tampa Bay	3	9	0	.250	217	285
Atlanta	3	9	0	.250	261	340

North

Detroit	7	5	0	.583	326	287
Chicago	6	6	0	.500	323	332
Green Bay	5	6	1	.458	294	305
Minnesota	3	8	1	.292	289	366

West

Seattle	10	1	0	.909	306	179
San Francisco	8	4	0	.667	297	197
Arizona	7	5	0	.583	275	247
St. Louis	5	7	0	.417	279	278

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LEE

From Page 28

After competing in the tournaments in Melbourne and watching a few matches in the Australian Open, Lee will go to Fiji to have a two-week session at the Junior ITF training facility. She will then return to the Land Down Under to compete in the Margaret Court Cup and Victoria Junior Grass Court Championships in January. She will be back on Saipan third week of January.

2013 NMA Annual Turkey Trot Run Part 1

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Runners head out to the course during last Thursday's 2013 NMA Annual Turkey Trot Run.



The last wave of runners leaves the Lower Base.



More runners are on their way to Capital Hill.



Runners head up to Capital Hill.



Bo Palacios leads a small group of runners past the Flame Three apartment in Capital Hill.



Runners cruises along Lower Base road on their way to Capital Hill.



Angelo Jones waves to motorists while leading a group passing Coffee Care.



Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel and Manny Aaron try to catch up with the lead group.



Youth runners join the race up to Mt. Tapochao.



Father and daughter Jeff and Gabrielle Race pace themselves as they take on the uphill road at Capital Hill.



**Manning, Decker
lead Broncos past
Chiefs, 35-28**

PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune Sports

**Pacers 16-1
after 105-100 win
over Clippers**

PAGE 25



28 TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2013

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Lee faces tougher test in Australia

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

CNMI junior tennis player Carol Lee will be put to a tougher test when she competes in a series of tournaments in Australia this month and next year.

Lee left Saipan last Sunday to join the ITF Touring Team that will participate in tournaments in Melbourne and in Wodonga and Albury in Victoria. She is the CNMI's lone representative to the elite selection and is joined by Palau's Ayana Rengil.



CNMI coach Jeff Race said Lee and other members of the team are sent to Australia after their impressive showings in tournaments in New Zealand for the past few years. The 11-year-old Lee debuted in the 2012 Waikato Christmas Junior Open in Hamilton and made it to the finals of the girls U12 singles and semis in the doubles (with Isabel Heras). Lee also joined the 2012 Tennis Auckland Christmas Junior Tournament where she posted a perfect 6-0 record in pool play before settling for a third place finish in the girls U12 singles.

"Carol had an outstanding performance in New Zealand and this year she has to play even better as the level



of play in the tournaments in Australia is much higher compared to New Zealand's. Plus, this trip will be a good opportunity for Carol to show ITF and Tennis Australia that she has what it takes to join an elite training program," Race said.

The CNMI coach said ITF is planning on putting up a training program outside the training facility in Fiji for U12 players and Lee was being considered for the pilot after her notable performance in the 2013 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships. Lee was unbeaten in POJC en route to clinching the girls U12 singles crown in the annual tournament. She also took the gold medal in the girls U12 doubles, teaming up with Tania Tan.

"The ITF people were impressed with Carol and they will be looking at her again when she plays in Australia. Carol has been training so hard for the past few months and is getting help from this father, so I think she is coming to Australia well prepared," Race said.

"ITF is committed in assisting our players in the Pacific that's why it is planning on having a training program for U12 players. This is Carol's chance to prove she belongs to the elite level of players," Race added.

**See LEE on
Page 26**

Carol Lee, seen here returning a shot to Tania Tan during the 2013 North Pacific Regional Championships in June this year at the PIC tennis courts, left Saipan last Sunday to compete in Australia.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Laguna eliminates Shakir Realty

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Laguna/Erika's Catering made Shakir Realty kiss its playoffs hopes goodbye after cruising to an 84-59 victory in the final regular season game in the 2013 UFO-Budweiser Masters Division Basketball League last Saturday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Laguna finished the double-round robin elimination with a 7-3 record, placing second behind the unbeaten Blue Haus (10-0). Shakir Realty wrapped up the season with a 2-8 slate, joining Pacific Islands Club in the showers and handing the last playoff berth to D&Q Degree (3-7). Had Shakir Realty won its last game, it would have forced a tie with Degree for the fourth and final playoff ticket and would have prevailed in the tiebreak (if winning margin system is used). Degree beat Shakir Realty by 19 points in the first round, 72-53, while the latter won the second round outing by 22 markers, 117-95.

With Shakir Realty losing its playoff chances, Degree now has the right to face the top-ranked Blue Haus in

See LAGUNA on Page 26

Laguna's Ed Guinto drives against Shakir Realty's Ernie Moises during their game in the first round of the UFO Masters caging last month at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



San Antonio clinches q'finals seat

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



San Antonio bagged the second and final outright quarterfinals berth in the 2nd DL Corp. Invitational Basketball League, following an 83-59 demolition of San Roque last Saturday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

The victory was sixth in as many games for San Antonio, which ties Island Floral for the lead in Pool B. The two unbeaten teams will square off this week for the solo top spot, but both are already assured of the

See SAN ANTONIO on Page 26

San Antonio's Jaymark De Guzman draws a foul on Maplas' Edmark Mendoza during their game in the DL Corp. caging late last month at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court. San Antonio won and remained unbeaten after an 83-59 victory over San Roque last Saturday.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

